

Small Learning Communities



ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE INSTITUTE



SUMMARY: The Environmental Science Institute is one of the small learning communities this year. It will increase the students' awareness of the environment and appreciation for nature while allowing them to creatively express themselves through a variety of written genres. Teachers from two subject areas (Science and English) will come together to create a unique interdisciplinary experience for selected seniors. The courses run for two consecutive periods, to allow extended time for guest speakers, field trips, project work, and course applications. Students must enroll in both portions of the institute. This institute is intended for students

interested in the environment and conservation. It fulfills requirements for English IV and one natural lab science. What follows is a description of the course offerings.

SCIENCE: Sea and Shore Ecology Grade 12 5 Credits

This laboratory course is designed for students interested in marine biology, coastal ecology and environmental issues. Students will gain a better understanding of the sea and shore ecosystems and the major environmental problems affecting each. There will be a significant emphasis on conservation of sea and shore communities as well as the biodiversity in each. Students will also study the major marine divisions and participate in dissections as well as hands-on activities to solve current issues facing the world's coastal areas. Students will gain practical knowledge using our wildlife habitat and will share that with potential visiting groups.



Prerequisite: *General / Classical / or Physical Earth Science and Biology*

ENGLISH: English IV Grade 12 5 Credits



This course fulfills the English IV requirement, a graduation necessity, for seniors and emphasizes creative writing and literature about the environment. Students will study different cultures' attitudes and beliefs about the environment from the earliest creation stories to contemporary literature. We will also expand our definition of "text" to include environmentally-themed media such as art, music, and film, and students will learn to analyze these texts formally through a variety of writing

modes with an emphasis on discerning their cultural meaning. Creative writing will be a regular component of the course and students will write their own literature of the environment in a variety of genres.