



# Liberty Middle School

281 Dock Murphy Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

## Environmental Explorations

Mr. David Clifton

<b>Teacher Contact Information</b>	<b>Email:</b> dtclifton@madisoncity.k12.al.us <b>Classroom Phone:</b> 256-430-0001 ext. 83203
<b>Classroom Digital Platforms</b>	<b>Webpage Link:</b> <a href="https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Domain/2520">https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Domain/2520</a>  <b>Schoology Link</b> <b>Section 5:</b> <a href="https://madisoncity.schoology.com/course/5145361198/materials">https://madisoncity.schoology.com/course/5145361198/materials</a> <b>Section 6:</b> <a href="https://madisoncity.schoology.com/course/5145361206/materials">https://madisoncity.schoology.com/course/5145361206/materials</a> <b>Section 7:</b> <a href="https://madisoncity.schoology.com/course/5145361210/materials">https://madisoncity.schoology.com/course/5145361210/materials</a>  <b>Distribution List Link:</b>
<b>Textbook Information</b>	<i>No textbook is used with this course</i>
<b>Course Description</b>	<p>Environmental Explorations is an elective course which requires students to have an interest in their environment and the world around them. This includes enjoying the outdoors and seeing it as a means of life and survival for its natural habitat. It allows them to explore their own surroundings at home and notice any similarities in their own dwelling while doing what they can to help maintain Liberty Middle School's beautiful outdoor classroom. Students can and will complete their own studies and research to see how they can gain a better understanding of ecological concepts including air, biological diversity and human impacts on our environment, soil, and water. Students will gain knowledge through their own fieldwork, classroom projects, and collaborative investigation while working alone and completing group work using appropriate technology. Students are challenged with various diverse topics and the opportunity for oral and written presentations to show what they've learned. Reading, writing, speaking, listening, and collaborative strategies are used purposefully to build knowledge and skills and to help students become independent readers, writers, and thinkers as they transition into high school. The primary goals of the course are to foster independent learning, encourage in-depth exploration of the content, and develop academic habits of mind. <b>Outside and summer reading are required.</b></p>
<b>Course Objectives</b>	<p>Students will develop and strengthen critical thinking skills by reading, comprehending, and engaging with various topics while making real world connections to what they are learning with the aid of our outdoor classroom. They will investigate topics such as air pollution, atmospheric structures, biodiversity and bioethics, conservation, consumption, environmental economics, pollution, water, and the weather. The topics range from deforestation/reforestation, climate change, and recycling, to forms of clean energy, natural habitats, and Alabama wildlife among other topics. Students will be able to define and identify environmental science concepts and demonstrate their understanding of these topics through various formative assessments and class projects with a final summative assessment. They will use classroom instruction, collaborative research with classmates, and their own outdoor experiences to engage critically and constructively through class discussion and small group assignments and tasks.</p>
<b>Course Outline</b>	<b>Unit 1: Alabama Wildlife</b> <b>Unit 2: Outdoor Classroom</b> <b>Unit 3: Deforestation/Reforestation</b> <b>Unit 4: Climate Change</b> <b>Unit 5: Recycling</b> <b>Unit 6: Forms of Clean Energy</b> <b>Unit 7: Natural Habitats</b> <b>Unit 8: Alabama Wildlife II</b>
<b>Classroom Expectations</b>	1. Be seated and ready for class when the bell rings. Students tardy to class will receive a detention per

	<p>LMS policy.</p> <p>2. Come prepared for class. Bring all necessary supplies, including homework.</p> <p>3. Respect your teacher, your classmates, and yourself.</p> <p>4. Listen and follow directions.</p> <p>5. If it's not yours, don't touch it. Keep your hands and feet to yourself. If you break something of mine, be prepared to replace it. This also applies to school technology.</p> <p>6. Follow all school rules.</p> <p>7. The teacher dismisses the class, not the bell.</p>
<b>Progressive Discipline</b> <i>(LMS Policy)</i>	<p><b>Step 1:</b> Verbal warning</p> <p><b>Step 2:</b> Student/teacher conference</p> <p><b>Step 3:</b> Parent contact/conference</p> <p><b>Step 4:</b> Detention and a parent contact</p> <p><b>Step 5:</b> Office referral</p>
<b>Grading Policy</b> <i>(MCS Policy)</i>	<p><b>60%</b> = Assessments (Tests, Essays, Projects)</p> <p><b>40%</b> = Daily Grades (Quizzes, Homework, Classwork, and Participation)</p>
<b>Late Work Policy</b>	<i>Ten percent will be deducted per week for a late assignment. After three weeks, the highest grade a student can get on any particular assignment is a 60.</i>
<b>Make-up Work/Test Policy</b>	Students with excused absences will be allowed to make-up all work within three days of returning to school. It is the student's responsibility to ask for make-up work. Students can get with a classmate or ask the teacher for help. Work that is not made up will become a zero (including quizzes/tests). Many times, missed quizzes and tests can be made up during school.
<b>Technology</b>	Student laptops should not be hard-wired to the network or have print capabilities. Use of discs, flash drives, jump drives, or other USB devices will not be allowed on Madison City computers. Neither the teacher, nor the school is responsible for broken, stolen, or lost laptops. Laptops and other electronic devices will be used at the individual discretion of the teacher.
<b>Accommodations</b>	Available upon request
<b>Materials &amp; Supplies</b>	<i>Chromebook; Notebook; Pen/Pencil</i>
<b>Homework</b>	<i>Most work will be conducted in class, but the student will be required to do some things at home and will have extra homework should they not complete their work in the allotted class time.</i>
<b>Parent &amp; Student Acknowledgment Form</b>	<i>Link will be provided</i>

***This syllabus is subject to change.***