



# Westside Secondary School

Orangeville, Ontario, Canada



519-938-9355

[www.ugdsb.on.ca/westside](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/westside)

Course: SVN 3E		Phone Extension	E-mail Address
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### Course Description:

This course provides students with the fundamental knowledge of and skills relating to environmental science that will help them succeed in work and life after secondary school. Students will explore a range of topics, including the impact of human activities on the environment; human health and the environment; energy conservation; resource science and management; and safety and environmental responsibility in the workplace. Emphasis is placed on relevant, practical applications and current topics in environmental science, with attention to the refinement of students' literacy and mathematical literacy skills as well as the development of their scientific and environmental literacy.

**Big Ideas:** The curriculum in each unit targets "Big Ideas" that are laid out by Ontario's Ministry of Education and adapted by Westside teachers. The following chart outlines the Big Ideas being explored and evaluated in each unit of this course. For more information on the overall course expectations, visit [http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/secondary/2009science11\\_12.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/secondary/2009science11_12.pdf).

Unit of Study	Big Ideas
Human Impact on the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The biotic elements of an ecosystem include humans.</li> <li>Abiotic and biotic factors interact within an ecosystem.</li> <li>People have positive and negative effects on the environment, both locally and globally.</li> </ul>
Human Health and the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental factors can have negative effects on human health.</li> <li>It is possible to minimize some negative health effects associated with environmental factors by making wise lifestyle choices and taking other precautions.</li> </ul>
Energy Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The impact of energy production and consumption on environmental sustainability depends on which resources and energy production methods are used.</li> </ul>
Natural Resource Science and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity is a measure of the health and sustainability of an ecosystem.</li> <li>Careful resource management planning is necessary to sustain ecosystems.</li> </ul>
The Safe and Environmentally Responsible Workplace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workplace safety is the responsibility of both employees and employers.</li> </ul>

**Instructional Strategies:**

Westside teachers use a variety of instructional strategies to help students develop and improve skills in the following areas: character, citizenship, communication, critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration and teamwork, and creativity and imagination.

**Achievement Categories:** Student learning is assessed and evaluated with respect to the following four interrelated categories of knowledge and skills.

**Knowledge and Understanding  
Thinking  
Communication  
Application**

**Assessment and Evaluation:** Formative assessments for and as learning are used to improve student success by providing an opportunity to demonstrate an understanding of course expectations prior to the summative evaluation of learning. Summative evaluations are where students demonstrate their understanding of Big Ideas and key expectations. Summative tasks may include labs, research assignments, presentations, interviews, projects and unit tests. Failure to complete a summative evaluation may result in the credit not being granted because the expectations of the course have not been met.

**Term Work Evaluation: 70%**

Human Impact on the Environment: Test and Inquiry Activity  
Human Health and the Environment: Test and Lab Activity  
Energy Conservation Unit: Test and Inquiry Activity  
Natural Resource Science and Management: Test and Lab Activity  
The Safe and Environmentally Responsible Workplace: Test and Inquiry Activity

**Final Evaluation(s): 30%**

Culminating (20%)  
Interview (10%)

**Late Work**

- Students are expected to complete all assigned work and submit it by the teacher's established due date. Every attempt will be made to encourage students to complete all assigned work on time so their grade represent their actual achievement. For late and missed summative assessments, please see the ***Westside Students' Contract for Missing Evidence of Learning***.

**Safety Agreement**

- All students will receive a safety agreement and will sign and return the UGDSB Student Safety Record.

**Fees**

- This course may offer an optional activity for an addition fee (e.g. dissection).

**.Electronic Devices**

- The science department at Westside S.S. has a policy that no electronic devices (e.g. cell phones, tablets, iPods, mp3 players, etc.) are allowed during evaluations. For this reason, students are reminded to bring a scientific calculator when needed.

**Classroom Rules**

- Students are expected to follow the rules of conduct, as referenced on the school's web site: <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/westside/>.

In addition to these general rules of Westside Secondary School, the rules for the science classroom are as follows:

- no food or drink of any kind is allowed in a science classroom
- respect the people, equipment, and furnishings of the science classroom
- immediately stop any activity and give your attention to the teacher when asked to do so

- summative evaluations of learning will not leave the classroom, but are available for students to discuss with the teacher