



## **Ms. Riorda Nature Exploration Class Syllabus 2020-21**

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### **Contact Ms. Riorda:**

*Bloomz is the best way to reach me!*

You can also email: [mrriorda@hha47.org](mailto:mrriorda@hha47.org)

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Goal:** The Nature Exploration class is an introduction to Environmental Science for all levels of learners. The study of Environmental Science is designed to show thematic connections between a variety of science disciplines including biology, chemistry, and physics. The aim of this course is to increase students' knowledge of the environmental challenges of today, while continuing to cultivate scientific curiosity and critical thinking skills. Some of the topics that will be covered include ecosystem dynamics, energy transfers and the impact of humans on the natural world.

**Diversity Statement:** I believe in equity, justice, and inclusion for all. In Nature Exploration we study ecosystem dynamics which really involves a collaboration of all the parts in order for it to be sustainable. Our classroom is like an ecosystem in many ways. In this class we celebrate diversity as a strength and resource for creativity and community. Students may not always feel comfortable as they take brave risks and tackle creative challenges, but I place great emphasis on making Nature class a safe space for ALL students to experience these important growth opportunities.

**Online Learning Norms and Expectations (subject to change):**

**Online Learning Consequences:**

1. Warning
2. Teacher may disable video/mic and chat with you privately
3. Parent contact/Loss of participation credit

**Classroom Rules: Make Nature Class a SAFE Space!**

1. Choose kindness. All. The. Time.
2. Respect each other
3. Respect yourself
4. Respect your environment

**Classroom Consequences:**

1. Warning
2. Think Time (Elementary)/Demerit(s) and Hall Conference (Middle School)
  - a. Automatic Think Time or Demerit for physical or emotional violence (pushing, hitting, name-calling, teasing, etc.)
3. Contact Home (Elementary)/ContactHome/ Restorative Room/ Detention (Middle School)

**Supplies:**

An open scientific mind

Patience and courage to ask questions

A Journal for note taking and sketching.

**Grading Policy:**

PK-2: 100% Participation

3-8: 50%Participation/50%Assessment/Classwork