

Thinking Green Syllabus

Students and Families,

Welcome to Thinking Green for the year! I am so excited to meet all of you and explore the natural world with you this year. We have many interesting topics that we are going to cover and I can't wait for us to dive in!

This class will be focused on talking about sustainability, climate change and the impact that we have on the world. We will be discussing many topics and challenging our views and opinions on these topics throughout the semester. We will be looking at many different perspectives and ask that students are willing to look at topics from many different viewpoints. This class requires an open mind and the ability to think critically and deeply about the impact we have on the world around us.

This is going to be a hands-on experience throughout the year. I strongly believe that students should have an active role and be responsible for their own learning. Please be prepared to participate fully in class each day and be ready to share your voice, opinion, and questions in class. Our classroom will be a safe space where everyone should feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and questions. If you have any concerns or at any point you feel uncomfortable in class, please come and talk to me.

Families, please meet with your students and go through the syllabus outlined below. This information is important for you and your child to understand in order to be successful in the classroom. I ask that you sign the bottom of this document to show that you understand everything stated and you give permission for your child to participate and view videos to help reinforce material.

Students, I want this to be your classroom as well. If you have any ideas on how to improve the classroom community or have any questions, concerns or feedback please do not hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to have open communication and for you to all feel comfortable expressing yourself in our classroom. Families, my door is always open for you as well and I am happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you individually throughout the year. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Thank you,
Miss. Drager
gdrager@greenwoodcharter.org

Homework: I believe that time at home is important in order to relax, spend time with family and participate in extracurricular activities. I will not be giving much homework this year in order to allow time for these things at home. The small amount of homework that I will give will be expected to be completed on time and to the best of the students ability. This also means that classwork is even more important and class time is expected to be productive in order to prevent classwork from turning into homework. Any homework assignments will be written down in a planner that students should be checking every night. This helps keep them accountable for their work and start developing good study habits.

Google Classroom: I will be utilizing Google Classroom to update assignments and allow students to see what they have missed when they are absent. I will also be updating Google Classroom with additional resources and class materials that will help them while studying for tests and further understanding material. Students should also always feel comfortable asking for extra help if needed or asking for additional resources if they need help understanding some of our concepts.

Student Portfolio: The students will be saving assignments throughout the year to use in their student portfolios. These portfolios will be used to show progress and growth over the year and for the students to have a sense of pride in their work. They will present their progress at student-led conferences. Their folders will serve as their portfolios so it is important that they keep everything throughout the year in their folder.

Compass: Compass is our online gradebook. I will be updating assignments weekly on Compass in order for students to check their grades and address any concerns. I encourage you as parents to check your students' grades as well and please feel free to contact me with any concerns. We will be checking grades on Compass as a class once a week in order to see what assignments are missing and make sure the students know where they stand in class.

Academic Grades: Students will be expected to turn in work in a timely manner. Assignments given to students when they are present in class will be expected to be turned in on time unless the student comes to me to discuss the need for extended time. I understand that unforeseen circumstances happen and I am always willing to discuss the need for extensions with students if they take the initiative to have the conversation.

- **Absences:** Students are expected to get a list of missed assignments from their teacher the day they return from an absence. Students will have **2 days** after their absence to complete these assignments. Students are welcome to set up appointments to meet and discuss any material or assignments that are unclear from the time they missed. It is their responsibility to ask for clarification as all notes and instructional material will be posted on Google Classroom for them to review. Any tests that are missed due to an absence will be expected to be completed in the same time frame.
- **Late Work:** Students will have 2 weeks from the date of the assignment to make up missed work. After 2 weeks all grades for the assignment will be final and will not be changed in the gradebook, even if the assignment is turned in. Progress reports will be given out every 2 weeks in order to keep track of their grades and missing work.

We will be following the schoolwide academic grading scale found in the student handbook. Below is a summary of our grading system, if you have any questions please feel free to ask.

- **4-** Exemplary
- **3-** Proficient
- **2-** Developing
- **1-** Beginning

- **A-** Absent
- **M-** Missing

Participation: Participation in class is extremely important. This will be factored into the students' habits of work grades as outlined below. Participation includes being an active participant in class discussions, asking questions, and working with others during group work.

Habits of Work Grades: Students will receive grades for more than just classroom assignments. Many skills in the classroom will be present in the work that students turn in as well as in the interactions present in the classroom. These skills will be part of the students grades as well as their academic grades that are listed above. The following will be the main skills we will focus on throughout the year:

- I can improve the quality of my work through feedback and revision.
- I can be accountable for my work and actions.
- I can collaborate successfully with my peers.

Classroom Norms: Our classroom norms will be fully set by the class during the first week of school. They will be based on the school norms which are outlined below:

1. Be responsible
2. Be engaged
3. Be respectful
4. Be safe

Video/DVD Policy: We will be watching videos throughout the year to help reinforce material and challenge our thinking. These videos will be used to show concepts we have already learned, relate concepts to the real world, and see new ideas about concepts. We will be using these videos as resources and evidence to back our understanding of key ideas.

By signing the end of this syllabus, you are giving permission for your student to view all videos in the classroom this year.

Supply List:

For all Classes: these will be kept by the students and taken to each of their classes

- Pencils
- Highlighters (assorted colors)
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Pens (assorted colors)

Supply List Thinking Green: these will be kept by the students and used just in our classroom

- Notebook
- Folder

Any of the following supplies would be very helpful for the classroom. Anything you would be willing to donate would be greatly appreciated:

- Compostable cleaning wipes
- Expo markers (multipack of various colors)
- Bamboo tissues/paper towels
- Post it Notes
- Clipboards
- Notebook Paper

Parent/Student Syllabus Signature Sheet

Dear Parent:

We have given both you and your child a lot of information. Please read over the letter together, and sign this letter to indicate that you have read/understood each component.

Please return by

Parent Signature _____

Parent Email for Teacher Communication (please write legibly)

Student Signature _____

Student Name (Printed) _____

Comments/Questions: _____
