Introduction to Environmental Research
Summer Assignment 2025-2026

This course will engage students in the scientific process by giving students the opportunity to perform authentic science research of their own choosing. Students identify their own topic of research; read relevant and appropriate scientific literature; create testable hypotheses; and design, analyze and discuss results. Alternatively, students may choose an immersion study of a topic of choice in which they will perform a thorough literature review and conduct a variety of laboratory activities to engage the learner and develop a conceptual understanding of their topic. Each student may have the opportunity to enter research into local, state and national competitions. All students will write a publication quality paper describing research results, and give an oral presentation of research results. The activities will allow students to develop their knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, as well as an understanding of how scientists study the natural world.

In order to prepare for September, please complete the following assignments. This is due the first day of school, **THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 2025**. Individual meetings will begin on this day. If you have any questions throughout the summer, please email Mrs. Varner. In addition, there will be a few days of Google Meets (optional) for additional communication regarding your research.

Google Meet Dates & Times: *Note, if none of these times work for you, reach out and we can schedule additional times*

1. Review the "Intro to Environmental Research" Assignment. This includes THREE different documents.
2. Textbook Assignments
   a. Chapter 1 - Beginning a STEM Research Project
   b. Chapter 2 - Research Design
   c. Chapter 5 - How to write a proposal
3. Annotated Bibliography

Assignments in September -- these are the assignments that will be assigned in class in September. You are welcome to get a head start or wait.
1. Write a proposal - due 9/8 @ 11:59pm
2. Literature Review - due 9/12 @ 11:59pm
3. Research Design - due 9/19 @ 11:59pm
4. Chapter 3 - Research Design - due week of 9/15