**Environmental Research Course (ERC)**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The Environmental Research Course is a one credit advanced science course, which will offer students an opportunity to conduct self-directed scientific research. Only students who are currently enrolled in Columbus City Schools and have completed Biology may apply. This course will begin in the summer and must be completed by the first day of the 2017-18 school year.

Students in **ERC** will complete **ONE** of the following projects:

* **A scientific research project:** This type of project does not follow an experimental format, as it will not have a hypothesis, material lists, results etc. It is basically a topic that you have researched in depth and want to demonstrate what you have learned through your research.

Examples of student generated scientific research projects:

**\*Got Salamanders? Examining Salamander Communities of a Reforested Surface**

**\*Effects of Acid Mine Drainage of Leaf Processing in Constructed Wetlands**

**\*Coal Mines Population Density of Common Garter Snakes**

Go to: <http://umech.mit.edu/freeman/6.021J/2000/writing.pdf> for directions on writing your research paper.

* **An outdoor environmental education** **project:** This type of project will integrated habitat research with a habitat enhancement component. Students will also develop classroom curricula or organizational programing based on state education standards. Examples of student generated outdoor environmental education projects:

**\*Developing access trails to a wildlife habitat area for use in environmental**

**education studies.**

**\*Enhancing an area for wildlife and for environmental education programs in areas**

**where habitat already exists.**

In addition to the student’s selected project:

* Students will conduct three career interviews. During these interviews students will identify the person, their place of employment, their contact information and date and time of interview. The following topics must be addressed during the interview:

Career Information at a Glance, Degree Requirements, Educational Field of Study, Expected Job Growth and Median Salary. An example of an interview write up can be found at: <http://learn.org/articles/Space_Scientist_Your_Career_and_Salary_Questions_Answered.html>

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* Students will login weekly to Google classroom to journal their progress until their project is completed. (The deadline for each journal entry is Sunday at midnight.)
* Students will create a presentation of their final projects, and present said projects to the staff @ Spruce Run Nature Center. Project completion dates will be selected by each student, **BUT the final deadline for all projects will be the first day of the**

**2017-18 school year.**

A calendar of deadlines and expectations will be available on google classroom. Students are to check here daily for updates concerning this course.

PLEASE NOTE: Specific required assignments and steps will be individually devised to aid in the planning and implementation of each student’s project. Any and all costs that the student occurs for and during the projects is the sole responsibility of the student.

Please contact Geri Granger 6-12 Science Curriculum Coordinator ([ggranger9556@columbus.k12.oh.us](mailto:ggranger9556@columbus.k12.oh.us)) for more details pertaining to this course.