

SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR THE ROSE HOUSE

School of Environmental Studies

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10 Tips for Survival in the Rose House

1. *The Centrum is not a continuation of your pod.*
2. *Don't expect to swim with the dolphins.*
3. *You'll see more outside if you're quiet.*
4. *It is helpful to have read the book before the day it is due.*
5. *If grades aren't posted, they aren't ready yet.*
6. *Yelling at the computer won't fix it.*
7. *There is no bad weather, just bad clothing.*
8. *Don't make stress your best friend.*
9. *Don't mistake your desk for a garbage dump.*
10. *When confused: smile and nod.*

Overview: What is Thematic Studies 11?

Welcome! You have chosen to participate in an exciting adventure this year. You will be studying in an integrated, interdisciplinary environment. Instead of taking three separate classes in language arts, social studies and environmental science, you will be taking one class, ***Thematic Studies 11***, that meets each day from 10:41 am – 2:05 am (Blocks 3 and 4). We will break for lunch from approx. 11:40 to 12:10.

The lessons will often be team-taught by your theme teachers. Even though each teacher has a content specialty, they will be working with you in many capacities, not just “the English teacher,” “the science teacher,” or “the social studies teacher.” We consider ourselves “environmental theme teachers.”

What will we study?

Each trimester is organized around a series of thematic questions. Fall trimester will begin by answering the question, “**What is your role in creating a successful community?**” Readings, lectures, labs, discussions, group activities, etc. will help you develop a thorough answer to that question. Assignments and assessments will be integrated, including content and skills from language arts, social studies and environmental science as well as exploring real-world connections between those subjects. You will rarely have an assignment that is only “English,” or “social studies” or “science.”

What expectations do the teachers have?

We expect that you will:

- participate actively
- ask many questions
- speak quietly and politely
- minimize distractions
- do your share of group work
- work cooperatively while in your pod, being constructive and supportive
- work independently while at your desk
- remain on task, managing time wisely
- share in the development and upkeep of our Rose House community
- be flexible
- be persistent

What responsibilities do we have for housekeeping?

All homes need upkeep. Each member of the house is responsible for:

- placing recyclable materials in blue/green bins in or near your pod
- placing non-recyclable materials in the black wastebasket in your pod
- placing food remains and other compostable items in the gray garbage can with plastic liner every day
- periodically dumping blue/green bins into the large recycling bin and black wastebaskets into the large garbage can
- sharing with pod members to keep your wardrobe and floor clean and neat
- keeping your desk clean, neat and organized, with chair pushed in at the end of the day
- decorating your pod & desk tastefully, centering around natural or environmental themes
- helping to put centrum chairs up on tables at the end of the day
- working with building staff in maintaining a clean, safe and appropriate learning environment

What is the expectation for attendance?

Each day at 10:41 am, you are expected in your pod for attendance. Your signature on the sign-in form indicates you are here. If you sign in after your name has been highlighted you will be marked tardy. A pattern of absences or unexcused tardiness will result in consequences, as outlined in your student calendar.

During house time, you will often be moving to many learning areas. You will be expected to follow the rotation schedule established by your teachers. Be prompt and punctual in rotations.

What types of assignments will we have?

As you formulate your answer to the trimester question, you will complete many types of assignments, most of which will fall into one of three categories:

Journal (a hardcover blank book, like a scientist’s field notebook)

A *data collection* tool, in which you:

- record notes, sketches, observations and data in the field, lab and class
- take notes during class activities, respond to readings, prepare for discussions
- jot down ideas and record data for later analysis and development
- place a date and title on each entry.
- Also for data collection, you should keep a **3 Ring Binder** in which you store:
 - class work and handouts
 - readings that you have annotated
 - study guides, lab procedures, maps, charts, etc.

You should have your journal with you daily.

Working Portfolio (a hanging folder)

A *data processing* tool, in which you:

- collect a variety of work done from class (drafts, in-class essays, sketches, etc.)
- select work from class for the purposes of reflection, revision, and synthesis of preliminary ideas
- develop a clearer understanding of the progression of concepts
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See the Learner’s Companion for a full description of the working portfolio.

Assessments at the end of each investigation

Tools for *demonstrating your understanding*, in which you:

- “show what you know” by offering an answer to the unit questions
- synthesize the concepts of the investigation in a presentation or well-organized activity
- display a thorough understanding of the material and the issues addressed in class

You will not be able to divide your “notebook” into sections marked “English,” “Science,” and “Social Studies”---we suggest you just keep whatever material you get in chronological order. This information is for your use as you complete your work.

What about homework?

Although some of our work will be completed in class, you should plan for **daily homework** assignments. Please keep up and do your work in a timely manner. Ask if you need help. If you need to check resource books out to complete an assignment, see a teacher.

What is the policy concerning late work?

We believe in a proactive rather than a punitive system for evaluating your timeliness in completing assignments. ***We strongly encourage you to get into the habit of turning work in on time and complete.*** When you turn in a completed assignment **on the day it is due**, you receive an additional 10% of the assignment's total grade. This 10 percent grade applies to most large assignments that we ask you to turn in, whether it is an essay, lab or individual piece. This "grade" is a separate effort grade, and is not part of the value of the assignment itself. This will account for 10% of your total grade. In other words, you can make a significant impact on your trimester grade by turning work in **on time and complete**. Work turned in up to one week after the due date can receive full points for the assignment but will not receive the 10 % timeliness grade. **Work turned in a week or more after the due date will receive no credit.**

What about make-up work?

Junior houses will follow guidelines outlined in the student calendar. You are responsible for prompt make-up work. When you return after an absence, first check the crate near the Rose House office for assignments and handouts, then ask a teacher if you need help. *For known absences of any reason (field trips, home school classes, activities, family trips, etc.) you are strongly encouraged to meet with a teacher prior to the absence.*

What if I have to miss class to take a class at my home high school?

You are responsible for promptly obtaining necessary information and material to make up whatever you have missed from Thematic Studies 11. Check the assignment crate regularly. You will be responsible for completing assignments on time, even if you were gone during the explanation of the assignment. We strongly suggest that you make arrangements with a fellow student who will pick up materials, share notes, and fill you in on what you have missed, including assignments. When you enter or leave Rose House due to your home high school class, please slip in and out quietly. You do not need to sign in or out for travel to a home high school class.

How are grades reported?

Grades are frequently posted near the Rose House office for you to keep track of your progress. Your parents can also view your grades on the Parent Portal.

You earn a grade for Thematic Studies 11 based on cumulative, integrative house grades. However, your report card will show Thematic Studies 11 as three separate grades.

Grades will be calculated using the following categories:

Journal	20%
Working Portfolio	25%
Assessments	45%
Timeliness	10%

***If you are taking AP Biology, AP Language & Composition, and/or AP World History, your AP teachers will explain how your grade will be calculated with the theme class grade.

What are the policies for computer use?

You will have your own folder on the SES Academic Volume 1 Server. Most of your writing should be typed or word-processed; storing drafts of your work in you network folder will allow for easy revision. ***Computing at SES is a community activity.*** Please follow these guidelines:

- Computers should be used for educational reasons only. Games, entertainment pages, and offensive materials are prohibited.
- **Please conserve paper and toner** by:
 1. Previewing your document before printing by using the “Print Preview” option.
 2. Checking the size of the document before printing.
 3. Printing only what you absolutely need.
 4. Printing only single copies of documents.
 5. Printing to the Rose House printer only.
 6. Finding the solution to printing problems before attempting to reprint.
- Keep the computer workstations clean and neat. **Food and beverages should not be consumed while you are at the computer. This includes water.**
- **Always** log out of the network when you leave the computer station for security purposes.
- Save all materials to your network folder to insure that they will be frequently backed up.
- Report problems to a teacher.
- Please be patient; it’s only a machine!

Can we have food in the house?

You have the privilege to consume food and beverages **at your desk** when time permits. Please do not bring food or drinks to the Centrum or classroom areas. Water bottles are an exception to this rule and are permitted in the Centrum and on field study activities (not at the computers!).

Large amounts of food should not be stored in your pods (mice, don’t you know). Containers with food in them should be sealed when you are not using them. Disposal of food waste is only to be in the specific containers provided. Keeping the house clean is a necessity and poor housekeeping habits can result in loss of your food privilege.

Lunch

Rose House will eat lunch from approximately 11:40-12:10. If you choose to eat lunch at your desk, you must return trays to the cafeteria area at the end of your lunch period. Dispose of other recyclables and food waste properly before the end of lunch.

Can we have pets and plants?

You are welcome to bring plants to school for your desk and/or pod as long as your pod mates agree. Please water and fertilize your plants regularly.

Well-maintained fish aquariums are welcome. Students bringing in animals must have the permission of their pod mates and house teachers.

Birds and mammals are not allowed upstairs at SES, except for special guests.

Can we use the house phones?

You are welcome to use the house phones to conduct school business during non-class time. Personal calls should only be made in **emergency** situations. If the phone is ringing, answer “Rose House student”.

Can we use our personal audio/video equipment, pagers and cell phones?

Please do not broadcast sound between 7:35 am and 2:05 PM. Students may use headphones during your independent work time. At all times, keep the volume low; no one beside yourself should be able to hear your music. Personal audio equipment (cd player, mp3 players, etc.) are not to be used outside of the pod. You may use headphones outside of your pod when using the computers.

Pagers and cell phones must be turned off or set to vibrate during the school day. Personal phone calls or text messages during the school day are not appropriate. Emergency calls are handled through the school office.

What do we do when visitors appear?

SES is a unique and much observed school. Many visitors will be touring our building so be polite and courteous. Try to maintain your concentration and remain on task. Please keep your pod areas neat and presentable. Please remember you represent our school.

What is the Inquiry and Discovery Program (ID)?

The ID Program is a unique opportunity that meets every other day for either 1st or 2nd block. ID provides an chance for you to examine a specific topic or subject in depth. ID Program opportunities might include such challenges as mentorships, research studies, conservation projects, service learning activities and apprenticeships. Emphasis is placed on self-directed “real life” activities, in which you are learning while providing important knowledge or assistance to the environment. Projects can occur each trimester or for the duration of the school year.

How will Advanced Placement (AP) work?

If you are taking AP Biology, AP World History, or AP Language & Composition, some of the AP study will be embedded in the theme class, some will be completed during bi-weekly sessions during the theme class time, and some will be completed during your scheduled AP Study time. If you have no scheduled AP Study time, you will have some opportunities to complete the work after school. Your grade in your AP course(s) will be derived from both house work and AP work. **50% of the final grade is determined from house activities and 50% is determined from AP activities.** The AP grade will only affect the appropriate subject on the report card.

What if I need help?

Please feel free to ask for help from us at any time. Rose House teachers are generally available for assistance from 7:00 am until 3:00 pm. Our office door is usually open for you. Please stop in!