

# SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

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12155 JOHNNY CAKE RIDGE ROAD  
APPLE VALLEY, MN 55124  
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The School of Environmental Studies is an educational option of choice for 400 juniors and seniors in Independent School District 196. Students come to SES after spending 9th and 10th grade at their “home high schools” of Apple Valley, Eagan, Rosemount, and Eastview.

SES is known for its innovative, interdisciplinary, and experiential curriculum. **Thematic Studies**, also referred to as “House”, combines English, environmental science, and social studies into a three hour long daily class which is team taught. These courses are connected by broad themes related to essential understanding of the environment and related issues. As students work to gain understanding of the themes, they complete projects and assignments that lead to relevant, real-world assessment of their progress.

SES also offers many strong **elective courses** including chemistry, physics, art, photography, video/multi media, Spanish, French, German, and mathematics. These courses meet every other day for 90 minutes.

Every trimester each student enrolls in an **Intensive Theme** course. During the seven day intensive theme time

period all other courses are discontinued allowing SES students to study one subject in-depth. Some Intensive Theme course are also **Field Experiences** to such locales as South Africa, New Zealand, Boundary Waters of Minnesota, Costa Rica, France/Spain, Yucatan Peninsula, Curacao, Belize, Scotland, France, Florida, Alaska, Iceland, Australia, Glacier Park, and the American South West.

Once at SES, some students may take a small number of courses at their **home high school** (usually music). Although SES has many activities, students may also elect to participate in athletics and activities at their home high school. SES faculty issue course grades, yet report cards, **transcripts**, and subsequent **class rank** are maintained by the home high schools.

SES maintains strong **partnerships** with many private and non-profit organizations. Many joint projects exist throughout the year between SES and the Minnesota Zoo whose campus is adjacent to ours. Zoo staff help teach some SES courses. Other strong cooperative partnerships exist with the City of Apple Valley, Dakota

County Parks, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota DNR, Wilderness Inquiry, Minnesota Design Team, Great River Greening, Will Steger Institute, and Flint Hills Refinery. SES partners often provide excellent volunteer, research, and internship opportunities for our students.

SES courses are considered both rigorous and challenging. **Advanced Placement** credit is offered in: Environmental Science, Human Geography, English Composition and Literature, Calculus, Statistics, Biology, Studio Art, and World History. Honors courses are offered in chemistry, physics, and pre-calc. Highest levels offered in world language are: Spanish V and French V.

In 1999 SES received, in a ceremony at the White House, the U.S. Department of Education's prestigious "**New American High School Award**". The award recognized SES's outstanding work in preparing students for college, its high graduation rate, its many successful partnerships, and its community oriented focus.

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<b>Mean ACT</b>	2006-07: 23.8
	2005-06: 24.1
	2004-05: 24.0
	2003-04: 23.2
	2002-03: 22.9
	2001-02: 23.9
	2000-01: 23.0
	1999-20: 23.3
	1998-99: 22.9
	1997-98: 23.6

**Percentage of graduates attending two or four year colleges:**

1999 – 96%
2000 – 95%
2001 – 91%
2002 – 92%
2003 – 93%
2004 - 93%
2005 – 95%
2006- 97%
2007 – 92%

**School Code: 240 088**

**Web site: [www.district196.org/ses](http://www.district196.org/ses)**

**Grading:** G.P.A. is non-weighted on a 4.0 scale. Some students qualify for an honors rank.

**Calendar:** Trimesters

Grade 12 Social Studies includes: Human Geography, Economics, and Political Science.

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