**Environmental Science**

**Class Project**

**~ Evacuation Route Nature Trail ~**

**Purpose:**

To transform the path from THS to ToES in a useable recreation path and tsunami evacuation route. This is a necessity for the safety of the entire school, as well as a uniquely designed trail for recreational use, such as nature hikes, trail runs, outside classrooms, etc.

**Safety and Gear:**

The only gear you will be given is work gloves and tools. You are responsible for bringing clothes and shoes that you can wear while working outside in all weather conditions. You will be able to store them here if needed.

We will be working with sharp tools to clear the woods, such as pruning shears. We will have a safety unit to cover proper techniques and use of these tools. For the duration of the class, you are expected to use each tool properly and are responsible for your safety and the safety of your classmates. If tools are used improperly, you will lose your privilege to use them.

We will accommodate any physical impairments, however, expect to be hiking moderate trail up to 8 miles in a day on slippery, unstable ground carrying up to 45lbs of gear. Throughout the hike, expect hard manual labor of cutting and moving brush, etc.

**Tasks:**

*Daily Class work* – Daily, we will be working outside on completing a useable recreation trail and evacuation route. You will be given weekly goals and graded on completion and participation.

Expect the trimester to include:

Walking the current evacuation route, mapping it and recording work plan

 Contacting local businesses for support and land use

Cleaning the trail to make it accessible

 Adding trail structures such as markers, retaining walls, stepping stones and water bars

Documenting native plant species

Creating a trail map, brochure, etc.

Creating an informative trailhead sign and, potentially, new bridge

*Field* *Trip* *work* – We will take four to five full day field trips to work on our path. The field trips will be defined as follows.

*Exploration Day:* Our first day in the field will be to work as a class to map our route and survey for future work needed.

*Work* *Days*: Seeing the trail is too long to both hike to the end of it and work on it during a single class period, we will have several field trips to complete the ToES end of the trail.

*Grand Opening:* Your final class assessment will be to take the elementary school on a nature walk and to host a grand opening of the trail.

*By the end of this trimester, you will have creating a useable recreation trail and evacuation route that will forever be a part of our community. Be proud of it.*

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**~ Weekly Outlook ~**

*Week 1*

Full day field trip: Walk the current evacuation route, mapping it and recording work plan.

Contact companies for land use and support services deemed necessary.

Write up a work plan and create a schedule.

*Week 2*

 Follow work plan and schedule.

Continue to contact companies for land use and support services deemed necessary.

Cleaning the trail to make it accessible.

 Adding trail structures such as markers, retaining walls, stepping stones and water bars.

*Weeks 3 through 5*

 Cleaning the trail to make it accessible

 Adding trail structures such as markers, retaining walls, stepping stones and water bars

*Weeks 6 through 8*

Cleaning the trail to make it accessible

Documenting native plant species

Create trail map

Creating an informative trailhead sign and, potentially, new bridge

Contact the elementary school to participate in the grand opening

*Week 9*

Finish documenting native plant species

Create and publish trail map

Create a brochure to publish for trail use, rules and regulations

Creating an informative trailhead sign and, potentially, new bridge

*Week 10*

Last minute clean up

Create flyers for grand opening

Finalize field trip plans

*Week 11*

Full Day Field Trip: Grand Opening