**Standard/Honors Earth Science**

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Piedmont Classical High School

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Room 202

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**Course Description**

This course will systematically cover the study of the environment and our proper place in it. It is designed to interpret and understand the world around you. To accomplish this, students will investigate and study the interactions between the four major Earth’s spheres including the geosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere in order to explain Earth’s formation, processes, history, landscapes, and how and why Earth changes over time. The course will also explore how current actions of man are interacting with and affecting Earth’s spheres leading to local and global changes. Topics to be addressed include, but are not limited to the scientific method, mapping Earth’s surface, minerals, rocks, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, geologic time, and meteorology. Students will participate in laboratory exercises, small group activities, class discussion, and projects.

**Laboratory Work**

Students should be prepared for both indoor and outdoor activities. Students are expected to abide by lab safety and proper protocol during all laboratory activities. The goals of the lab work are to understand problems, develop and design experiments, analyze data, draw conclusions, and communicate those conclusions.

**Topic Outline**

The following outlines the major topics covered in Earth Science.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| The Nature of Science | Weathering, Erosion, and Soil | The Nature of Storms | Earthquakes | Energy Resources |
| Mapping Our World | Mass Movements, Wind, and Glaciers | Climate | Mountain Building | Human Impact on Resources |
| Matter and Change | Surface Water | Earth’s Oceans | Fossils and the Rock Record | The Sun-Earth-Moon System |
| Minerals | Groundwater | The Marine Environment | The Precambrian Earth | Our Solar System |
| Igneous Rocks | Atmosphere | Plate Tectonics | The Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic Eras | Stars |
| Sedimentary and Metamorphic Rocks | Meteorology | Volcanism | Earth Resources | Galaxies and the Universe |

**Textbook:**

*Earth Science: Geology, the Environment, and the Universe* © 2013, Glencoe

**Materials required:**

1. Binder with dividers and loose-leaf paper – *notes, labs, handouts, tests/projects, quizzes, vocabulary*
2. Pens/pencils/colored pencils
3. 2 Composition Books
4. Graph Paper
5. Index card

**GRADING:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Semester 1** | **35%** |
| **Midterm** | **10%** |
| **Semester 2** | **35%** |
| **Final Exam** | **20%** |
| **Final Grade** | **100%** |

**Semester Grade Weight**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Engagement (homework, discussion, classwork, etc.)** | **50%** |
| **Tests/Projects** | **35%** |
| **Quizzes** | **15%** |

**A** 90-100% **D** 60-69%

**B** 80-89% **F** 59 and below

**C** 70-79%

**Tests** will usually be given bi-weekly and will cover two-three chapters. Tests will cover all information learned during discussion, lecture, and labs. They will consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and graphing/data analysis. All Earth Science classes will be implementing the school’s alternate assessment policy included in the student handbook.

**Quizzes** will cover vocabulary and will be given with every chapter.

**Labs** will be done bi-weekly. You will be graded upon pre-lab, during lab, and post-lab work. Observations, hypotheses, analysis and conclusions will be assessed. Each lab will have some informal conclusion and follow up analysis. If required, a formal lab write-up format will be discussed when it is due.

**Homework** will primarily include textbook questions and material review. Homework is due at the beginning of class.

**Participation** will include class discussions and class preparedness.

**Midterms and Finals** will be created to assess the student’s understanding of the cumulative content covered up to that point.

**\*Honors Course Requirements:** Honors classes require more rigor, higher level thinking, independent class time, and higher expectations on work quality. Critical thinking questions and in-depth summative assessments and projects will be standard in these classes\*

**Inclement Weather**

In the event that inclement weather, I will update you via Remind on that is expected during the missed class time. To compensate for the missed class time, I may assign at-home work to do.

**Absences**

If you have an excused absence, it is YOUR responsibility to see that class work and notes are made up. You have three days to finish this work and turn it in, except for instances of extenuating circumstances which will be discussed among teacher and student individually. Come see me if there are extenuating circumstances. If you are absent, you will be expected to take the test/quiz the day that you come back in class.

**Late Work**

If you do not turn in an assignment on its due date and you were not absent on its assigned date, then you will lose 10 points for every day late. If it is more than 3 school days late, you will receive a 0. **No exceptions.**

**Class Expectations**

All reading, note taking, and preparation must be done prior to class so as to not fall behind. The following are other expectations for this class:

1. **Accountability, Respect, Responsibility.** I will expect you to have these three traits above all else every day while you are in my class.
2. **Be on time to class**. You must be inside the classroom before the bell rings.
3. **Come to class prepared.** Always bring a pen or pencil, textbook, and your notebook.
4. **Turn your work in on time.** Abide by the appropriate due dates. Losing points for tardiness is unnecessary and only hurts your grade.
5. **Cheating** will not be tolerated by any means. Cheating on homework, makeup work, quizzes, and tests will result in a zero for the assignment and a referral to the principal. Please see the school policy in your student handbook. Be aware that any cheating will revoke your membership in National Honors Society.
6. **Consequences.** If you do not follow the above expectations, proper consequences will ensue. A verbal warning, a phone call home, conferences, detentions, and using the help of administration (referrals, suspension) are all consequences depending on the offense.

**Student Resources:**

1. **After school tutoring:** Availableafter school every Thursday. You will need to sign up on the form located on the Student Supply Table if you are coming to tutoring.
2. **Come see me during my study hall or planning for additional help.**
3. **Form student study groups**
4. **Utilize study hall time to work with peers or seek tutoring from Mrs. Nance.**

Refer to your PCHS student handbook for specific school guidelines, rules, and expectations. All school policies will be adhered to while on PCHS campus.

**\*THIS PAGE IS TO BE RETURNED TO MS. NORTON\***

**Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (PLEASE PRINT!)**

**Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Student Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**What’s your favorite sport to watch or play?**

**Do you have siblings? How old?**

**Are you involved in clubs? Which club?**

**What are your hobbies? Does PCHS offer a club for those hobbies?**

**What’s your biggest strength? What’s your biggest weakness?**

**Declaration of Understanding**:

***Students***

I have read and understand the information outlined in this syllabus. I am aware of the time commitment, both in and out of class. I understand that all school rules also apply in Ms. Lewis’ classroom and I will work to my fullest potential with consistent effort and a positive attitude.

**Student Signature Date**

***Parents***

I have read and understand the time commitments and expectations set forth for my child to achieve and accept my responsibility to help my child abide by them.

**Parent Signature Date**