

EARTH SCIENCE SYLLABUS

Mr. Stephen Lockhart

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this course is dedicated to meeting the needs of its students through instruction, lab activities, and research. In pursuit of this purpose the specific goals of this course are:

- A. To equip each student with the skills, tools, and processes necessary for becoming more adept at reasoning and problem solving as well as learning and for using existing knowledge to learn new knowledge.
- B. To provide a basic understanding and appreciation of our ever changing planet and its place in space.
- C. To develop mathematics, writing, reading, research, and historical skills in the science area.
- D. To prepare each student for real world technology so that he/she can function in an accelerating world of science and technology and to increase each students awareness of the application of earth's natural environment to real world situations.
- E. To instill the attitude that learning is a lifelong process to be valued and to develop responsibility, and stewardship.

II. COURSE OF STUDY

The course is broken into four major units in turn each unit is broken down into smaller sections. The units vary in length and procedure. They are as follows:

A. Geology-

- 1, 2: Intro to Earth Science / Earth: As A System
- 3: Models of Earth / Earth's Structure & Motion
- 4, 5: Earth Chemistry / Minerals of Earth's Crust
- 6: Rocks
- 14: Weathering, Soils, and Erosion
- 15 16: Surface Water / Groundwater
- 17, 18: Glaciers / Wind, Waves, and Currents
- 10 Plate Tectonics
- 12, 13: Volcanoes / Earthquakes

B. Oceanography-

23. The Ocean Basins
24. Ocean Water
25. Movements of the Ocean

C. Astronomy-

26. Studying Space
27. Planets of the Solar System
28. Minors Bodies of the Solar System
28. The Sun
30. Stars, Galaxies, and the Universe

D. Meteorology-

19. The Atmosphere
20. Water in the Atmosphere
21. Weather
22. Climate

III. PRESENTATION OF MATERIAL, AND EVALUATION:

I believe in a system of teaching known as a "Mastery Approach". This method allows students to study material until they have mastered it. If students are given time to master material, and the things that they are asked to learn are presented in a manner which they can understand, it is possible for almost all students to master the material in this course. My teaching methods, standards, and evaluation system are based on this approach.

- A. Presentation of Material - The material will be presented in the form of lectures, slides, Smartboard activities, videos, internet activities, software programs, demonstrations, oral reading, student presentations and reviews, and labs.

- B. Evaluation- Evaluation of each students progress is done on a point system. They are evaluated in 7 areas. They are as follows:
1. EXAMINATIONS--A total measurement of the students progress in the course half way through and at the end of the term. The standards for exams are:
 - a. Each student is required to take a midterm and a final exam. The midterm is worth 20% of your 1st Marking period grade and the final is worth 9% of your total term grade.
 - b. The final will focus primarily on the second half of the semester. However, due to the nature of the subject matter, parts may be comprehensive.
 2. TESTS --Tests measure a students progress at the end of a set amount of material. Many factors affect the rate at which students learn and the scores they receive on tests. Therefore, the following procedures were created so that different rates of learning and factors that affect test scores will not affect a student's grade.
 - a. The material will come from your notes, labs, and at least 5 percent of the exam will be from your reading. We may or may not cover this material in lecture.
 - b. A test or quest can be worth between 50 to 150 points.
 - c. Each test will be made of any or all of the following types of questions; true/false, multiple choice, short answer, essay, or lab activities.
 - d. Students will be given 3 school days from the day the test is handed back to review the material and be retested.
 - e. The three-day time period will not be extended for any reason.
 - f. No extra credit points will apply to retest grades nor will retests be curved.
 - g. The higher exam score not an average of the two will count.
 3. QUIZZES--Quizzes are given to see if the students are keeping up with their day-to-day work. The
 - a. Quizzes will not be announced.
 - b. They are worth 5 to 25 points.
 - c. They will be on any material covered in class or in the reading.
 - d. Quizzes may not be retaken.
 4. NOTEBOOKS - **Notebooks are required in this course.** The development of good organizational skills is key to success in high school and beyond. The standards for notebooks are:
 - a. Students are encouraged to develop organizational skills that work best for them. There are no strict guidelines for notebooks, but I will be glad to suggest methods for keeping notebooks.
 - b. All notebooks are expected to contain: unit objectives, lecture notes, labs, activities, homework, tests, and other handouts used during the teaching of a unit.
 - c. Notebooks will be spot-checked during and graded at the end of each marking periods.
 - d. Notebooks will be worth between 100 - 200 pts.
 5. LABS / ACTIVITIES- Labs are designed for students to apply what they know. The standards for labs / activities are:
 - a. Every unit will contain from 1 to 10 labs / activities.
 - b. Labs / Activities will be worth 25 to 50 points.
 - c. Labs / Activities will be done in class.

6. HOMEWORK- Homework is designed to have the student memorize and apply the material. The
 - a. Every student is expected to study their notes and complete any required reading every night.
 - b. The homework for every chapter / unit can include the Vocabulary, Review, Interpret and Apply, and Critical Thinking sections from the end of each chapter
 - c. Homework will most likely but not always be assigned every night.
 - d. Any other homework which meets the objectives of the course may be assigned.
 - e. Homework for a marking period can total between 100 - 200 pts.

7. CLASS PARTICIPATION-- Class participation is designed to make the student take an active participation in his or her education and future.
 1. It is not the philosophy of this course to remove points for lack of participation but to add points to the grades of those active learners. The standards for class participation are as follows:
 - a. **0 points will be added to a student's grade who is disruptive, rude, or ridiculing to any member of the student body or faculty in or out of this class.**
 - b. **1 point will be added to a student's grade who comes to class but does not participate.**
 - c. **2 points will be added to a student's grade who comes to class and occasionally participates.**
 - d. **3 points will be added to a student's grade who comes to class and actively participates.**
 - e. **4 points will be added to any student's grade who comes to class, participates, and demonstrates an interest in the earth sciences beyond the classroom.**

IV. REPORTING OF GRADES

- A. Grades are calculated using the MMS web-based grading program. This program allows me to print:
 1. A list of items the student has been evaluated on and his or her score on each item.
 2. A break down of the students average in each area being evaluated.
 3. The students overall average for any marking period.
 4. A progress report.
- B. Print outs will be handed out when ever the total number of points changes by 100.
- C. Students are responsible for keeping track of their grades between printouts.
- D. Print outs can be produced at anytime with a written request signed by a parent.
- E. Tests will be returned, in most cases, the day after you take them.
- F. Anything else will be returned as soon as possible.
- G. Make-up work, and retake tests will be corrected only after all regular work is corrected.
- H. Formal progress reports will be filed within 3 days of the midpoint of each marking period.

- J. Final grades for each marking period and for the year will not be adjusted for any reason. A grade that works out to .5 or better will be rounded up. A grade that works out to .4 or less will be rounded down.

V. TARDIES, MAKE-UP WORK, LATE WORK, HALL PASSES, BEHAVIOR, AND CHEATING

- A. TARDIES- Students will not be admitted to class without a signed pass. Students present in school who are late to class without a pass will have 24 hours to produce one. At the end of that time the student's name will be sent to the office. An unexcused tardy will be treated as an unexcused absence

- B. MAKE-UP WORK- Students who owe work due to excused absences will have the same number of days they were absent plus two more days to turn the work in. An absence on the day of or any day after the assignment is given will not count. After that unless a written request for an extension is given and accepted by the teacher a zero will be recorded. Students absent only the day of the test will be expected to make-up the test the day of their return.
- C. LATE WORK- will be recorded as a zero. If you are going to absent from class due to an extra curricular event, it is your responsibility to get the assignment to me before you are dismissed (especially if you are dismissed before class time). * Changes in extracurricular schedules will not be taken into account.
- D. HALL PASSES- you all have been issued hall pass cards. In order to leave my room, you must first ask permission, then I must sign your card. Do not fill out your pass before you have asked to be dismissed. Abuse will result in loss of the hall pass, not including the nurse, for the year. The phone and your locker, 95% of the time, will not be considered a valid reason to request a hall pass.
- E. BEHAVIOR- It is my sincere belief that problems with discipline or behavior should be worked out between the teacher and student in an adult to an adult fashion. Students will be treated with respect and as young adults. In return, they will be expected to act that way. I expect each student to treat the faculty and other student as he or she wishes to be treated. I am always willing to hear the students side of the situation and work out any problem with that student and that student only at first. If agreement can not be reached or the student will not work out the problem with me, as a last resort, the problem will be passed on to parents and the office. When a problem is resolved it will be considered over and there will be no need to bring it up again. * All rules and regulations in the Boiling Springs Student Handbook apply within this room. **I will always try to conform to the following steps in dealing with behavior and discipline problems. This is so you know exactly where you stand. There are always going to be those times however, when the rules of the school, prior infractions, or the best interest of the class force me to go straight to 3 , 4, or 5.**
1. The student will receive a warning.
 2. The student will be held after class to discuss the behavior.
 3. Detention will be assigned.
 4. Your parent / guardian will be contacted.
 5. The student, teacher, and assistant principal will have a conference.
 6. The parent / guardian will be contacted again.
 7. Further action will be taken by the recommendation of the assistant principal.
- F. CHEATING--IF ANY ONE IS CAUGHT CHEATING IN ANY WAY SHAPE OR FORM THEY WILL TAKE AN AUTOMATIC ZERO ON THE ASSIGNMENT, LOSE THE RIGHT TO RETAKE TESTS, WRITE A LETTER TO THE PRINCIPAL AND TO THEIR PARENTS EXPLAINING HOW, WHY, AND WHY THEY WON'T CHEAT AGAIN AND BE SENT TO THE OFFICE TO FACE WHAT PUNISHMENT THEY SEE FIT. **THIS INCLUDES PLAGIARISM.**

*******I RESERVE ALL RIGHTS TO MAKE ANY CHANGES TO THIS SYLLABUS. NO CHANGES WILL BE MADE WITHOUT ADVANCED NOTICE AND STUDENT INPUT.*******