**Earth Science Syllabus**

**Ms. Jones-Winters**

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Welcome to earth science! Earth science is an exciting subject to explore and I am so excited to start what will surely be a fun semester. In this syllabus you will find information regarding course materials and needs, grading, classroom rules, and classroom procedures.

**Required Materials**

* 3-ring binder (at least 1.5”)
* Dividers to separate 5 units
* Loose leaf notebook paper
* No. 2 pencils
* Colored pencils
* Highlighters

**Additional Classroom Needs** (contribute if you are able)

* Hand soap
* Paper towels
* Tissues
* Clorox wipes
* Art supplies

Throughout the semester, we will be doing some fun edible labs. For this to happen, I will need volunteers to bring the food items. I will write down exactly what is needed on a sticky note. The students will be able to volunteer to bring an item by taking a sticky note. That student is then responsible for bringing the item by the date listed on the note.

**Grades**

Grades will be determined by weighted quizzes and home works, projects and labs, class work, and tests. The weighted percentages of each are shown below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Quizzes/Homework | 15% |
| Labs | 20% |
| Class work | 25% |
| Tests/Projects | 40% |

The grading scale is a ten point scale as shown below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A | 90-100 |
| B | 80-89 |
| C | 70-79 |
| D | 60-69 |
| F | 0-59 |

Your final grade in the course will be determined by your 1st quarter grade, 2nd quarter grade, and your NC final exam grade.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1st quarter | 40% |
| 2nd quarter | 40% |
| NC final | 20% |

**Quizzes**

Quizzes will be given weekly as a way for me to measure your progress. Quizzes will be announced ahead of time. Your two lowest quizzes will be dropped.

**Homework**

Because you will be introduced to very new concepts during this course, it is very important to practice using what you are learning. Homework will be given every now and then as a way for you to do so. I will post helpful resources on the classroom website that you can refer to while working on homework. You can also come see me during zero period or set up an appointment with me after school to get extra help.

**Labs**

Putting what you are learning to use it the best way to gain knowledge so we will do as many hands on labs as possible. Lab grades will be based on the following:

* Lab behavior which includes following proper safety procedures and clean up.
* Laboratory performance
* Lab questions and reports

\*Every effort should be made to not miss a lab. If a lab is missed and can be made up, you will have one week to do so and will be able to do so during zero period. Some labs will not be able to be made up and will be replaced with a supplemental assignment.

**Class work**

Class work will consist of all work done in class that is not a project or lab. This will include our foldable notes, games we will play, worksheets, etc.

**Tests / Projects**

Because your grade should reflect what you know, tests and major projects are weighted heavily at 45%. A study guide and review session will be given for each test. Tests and projects will be announced well in advance.

**Classroom Rules**

I want our classroom to be an exciting, safe, and comfortable environment for all of us. For that to happen, I have a few simple rules that I ask you to follow…

1. **Be respectful** to yourself and others. To me this means wait until others are done talking before you start, no unkind words to/about yourself or others, and keep it appropriate! By now, I am hoping all of you know what appropriate behavior is. If you don’t, I will help you learn that as well.
2. **Always listen to and follow my instructions**…the first time : )
3. **Be prepared**. Try your best to remember to bring all materials you will need in class. I will try to have back up pencils and paper for those days you forget, but I may run out from time to time. It is your responsibility to bring these items to class each day. If there is ever an issue with obtaining these items please let me know!
4. **Try your best**! This is my most important rule. We all need to try our best. I will educate you to the best of my ability and I expect you to put forth the most effort you can to absorb it.

**Classroom Procedures**

* **Turning in homework**: As you enter the classroom, please turn in your homework in the designated bin. Homework will not be accepted for full credit after class has begun.
* **Cell phone policy**: Because I fully dedicate class time to you, I will not be using my cell phone. I expect you to do the same. Your phone may be **face down** on your desk if you wish. There may be occasions where we use our phones for educational purposes and you will be allowed to use your phone during breaks and free time. If it is not during a break or free time, and we are not using our phones for educational purposes, and I see you on your phone, I will simply put your phone in my desk and return it to you at the end of class. If this happens a second time, your phone will be taken and be available for pick up in the office at the end of the day.
* **Start of class:** Check the board for what you should be working on. There will always be a warm up of some kind for you to work on while I take attendance and check homework. The warms ups are crucial as they are an excellent way to get your brain in science mode and to practice what we have been learning. You will have a warm up sheet with two weeks’ worth of spaces. It will be your responsibility to keep up with your warm up sheet every two weeks. After each two weeks, I will collect the warm up and they will count toward the class work portion of your grade.
* **Bathroom break**: We will generally have a classroom break for water and the restroom after about 45 minutes of class time. The break will be 5 minutes. You are expected to remain in the classroom before and after this break unless an emergency occurs and you have my permission to do so.
* **Entering and exiting the room**: All students are expected to remain in the classroom at all times excluding the duration of the bathroom break. With that being said, emergencies do arise. In the case of an emergency, you are expected to sign out and sign in on the sheet located near the door and list the reason of your emergency such as ‘bathroom’ or ‘water’ so that I know where you are going. In the case of a true emergency, you do not need to ask permission, especially if I am instructing. You simply should quietly sign out and leave the room and return and sign in as soon as possible so you aren’t missing too much of class.
* **Free time**: If things are running smoothly, and everyone is working hard the entire class, I will try to give about 10 minutes at the end for free time. During lab days this will be more difficult because of time constraints. The class will earn free time each day based upon behavior. If I see a student doing something they shouldn’t such as playing on their phone or talking while I am talking, I will make a mark on the board. If I make 3 marks, we will not be able to have free time. I am certain you are all fully capable of earning free time each day time allows.

**Late work**

Any work that is not turned in when it is due will be considered late. Work that is one day late (including homework not turned in at the **beginning** of class) will have 5 points deducted and each additional late day will add another 5 points deducted. Therefore work that is two days late will have 10 points deducted, three days will have 15 points deducted and so on.

**Attendance / Make up Work**

Because of the large amount of information that will be covered during this course, regular attendance is essential for success. I hope to see all of you here every day! With that being said, we humans get sick from time to time or have other obligations. Therefore, if you are absent, all missed assignments, notes, and labs can be made up. You will be allotted one more day than your number of absences to make up the work for full credit (labs are an exception. Refer to the lab section of the syllabus). For example, if you miss 2 consecutive days of class, you have 3 school days to make up your work. After this time, any make up work is considered late. I will place your absent work with your name on it in a designated folder located on the wall near the entrance. It is then your responsibility to complete the work. It is also your responsibility to come in and make up labs, tests, and quizzes. You can always come in during zero period to work on makeup work or you can make an appointment with me. Quizzes will be an exception and you will only be able to make them up if your absence is **excused**.

**Code of Honor**

As students you should pride yourself in your knowledge and show me what **you** are capable of. Copying others work will not be tolerated and will result in a zero for both the copier and the one allowing the copying.

**Communication**

E-mail is the best way to reach me with questions outside of school. I check my e-mail frequently and will respond to you as promptly as possible. I will be able to communicate with you using our classroom website. On the website I will post information on what we are covering each week along with resources to help you better learn the information we are covering.

*Please return this portion as* ***your first homework grade***

Student, by signing below, you are acknowledging that you have read and understand the syllabus and that you understand what is expected of you during this course.

Print student name

Student signature

Parent/guardian, by signing below, you are acknowledging that you have read and understand the syllabus and letter to the parents/guardians and that you understand what is expected of your child during this course.

Print parent/guardian name

Parent/guardian signature

*Please return this portion as* ***your first homework grade***

Student, by signing below, you are acknowledging that you have read and understand the syllabus and that you understand what is expected of you during this course.

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