

EARTH SCIENCE

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Dear Parents/Guardians & Students,

I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with you this year in 8th grade Earth Science! I am sending this letter home to provide you both with information about the class and as well as expectations that will be in place throughout the year. Please take the time to go over this together.

My top priority is for your child to have a successful experience in our classroom. **Your support and input is a very important part of that success.** If there are any questions or concerns about my expectations please feel free to email me or give me a call.

This year we will explore, use our curiosity, and ask questions to help us learn about each science unit:

- Nature of Science
- Minerals and Natural Resources
- Solar System
- Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes, and Volcanoes
- Earth, Moon and Sun
- Weathering, Erosion and Deposition
- Rocks and Earth History
- Atmosphere and Weather Patterns

Thus meeting the MN State Standards found here:

<http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/EdExc/StanCurri/K-12AcademicStandards/Science/index.htm>

We are also working towards all the Next Generation Science Standards:

http://www.nextgenscience.org/search-standards?keys=&tid%5B%5D=106&tid_3%5B%5D=94

Accelerated Science:

This will be the first year of accelerated 8th grade earth science. Students will dive into some high school standards as well as 8th grade earth science standards. Students will be moving at a faster pass as a result.

Grading Policies:

- Student grades will be based on:
 - Summative Assessments (Tests/ Performance Assessments), Projects, Lab Reports (90%)
 - Formative, Daily Work (10%)

Students earn grades that follow this 10 Point Grading Scale below. This means that each assignment will be given a score out of 10 and each point on this scale is associated with the descriptors below. These scores are given in *increments of 0.25*.

10-9.25 Exemplary = The student has exemplary proficiency. S/he can apply their knowledge or demonstrate their skill in all situations, even those that are more complex than an 8th grader would be expected to do.

9.0-8.0 Proficient = The student has proficiency. S/he can apply their knowledge or demonstrate the skill most of the time, in most situations. They are at a level that is appropriate for 8th grade.

7.75-7.0 Developing = The student is still developing her/his proficiency. S/he can apply knowledge or demonstrate the skill in some situations, but not consistently.

6.75-6.0 Basic = The student has a basic level of proficiency. Perhaps s/he can explain the skill or knowledge, but cannot apply it or demonstrate the skill.

5.75-0.25 No Proficiency = The student is not demonstrating little to no proficiency. His/her response does not show sufficient understanding of the concept or skill in the standard.

0 No Attempt = The student has not made an attempt to demonstrate understanding, so no level of proficiency was demonstrated.

Graded Work: (All graded work is out of 10 points, increments of 0.25)	Graded Work Letter Grade	Overall Grade Percentage for Class
10-9.25	A	100-92.5
9.0	A-	92.4-90.0
8.75	B+	89.9-87.5
8.5-8.25	B	87.4-82.5
8.0	B-	82.4-80.0
7.75	C+	79.9-77.5
7.5-7.25	C	77.4-72.5
7.0	C-	72.4-70.0
6.75	D+	69.9-67.5
6.5-6.25	D	67.4-62.5
6.0	D-	62.4-60.0
5.75-0	F	59.9-0

- Retakes will not be allowed on tests. Instead, test corrections will be used to earn back half the points. So if a student earns an 8/10 on a test. The student can correct their test earning back 1 of the 2 points missing to increase the score to 9/10 assuming the test corrections are accurate.
- Late Work Policy: Due dates are clearly communicated in class as well as on Canvas. We use planners (digital or paper) in class for reminders. Once the unit has ended no work will be accepted for credit.
 **If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get your make-up work. Check-in with Mr. Erdman at the start of class on the first day back from absence. Also, check on Canvas while you are absent to stay connected. Homework and class assignments are posted in Canvas daily. Extra worksheets are also available in the gray file cabinet near the front of the classroom under the tab for the date the assignment was given.
- Cheating: It will not be tolerated. Do your own work. Any plagiarizing, copying work, or cheating in anyway will result in a zero for anyone involved and a notification to the office and parents.

Earth Science Supplies besides your iPad:

- Each student will want a science notebook. (It can be shared with other subjects.)
- MANY Pencils/Pens! Colored pencils and markers are also great to have your own.
- Earbuds on days we have computer audio learning.
- Planner (digital or paper)

Textbooks:

Students will use a textbook in class and they will be available for check-out on an as-needed basis.

Teacher Web Page Resources (via Infinite Campus):

- Log onto Campus
- Click on “Check Grades”
- Click on “Earth Science” – a website link should appear at the top
 - **Daily Work/Tests:** Check on class work/assessments by looking on the Canvas calendar.
 - **Absent/Missing work:** If on Campus a grade is marked with an “M” it means that Mr. Erdman has not received it on paper or electronically. If the grade is simply blank, it means that Mr. Erdman is in the process of checking off the work, or the due date is still in the future.

Class Procedural Expectations:

Class begins at the bell. Per school policy, three tardies = 1 detention. Being in your seat at the bell is important. We have a lot of learning to do in a small amount of time.

Entering the classroom: Enter the room, with pencils and/or iPad ready every day. These simple steps at the beginning of class sets you up to be successful.

Bathroom passes: Try to use passing time first, but if you *have* to go, choose an appropriate time to go such as transitions times or work time. Try not to leave during active learning time or if your group needs you during a lab or activity. You won't want to miss anything. Have Mr. E sign your hall pass.

Extra help: If you ever need extra help, talk to me before it starts to feel overwhelming, and we can work out a time to study before or after school or during lunch. Lunch and Learn can be nice especially if you are a student with a lot of schedule demands.

Science Safety Rules for Students

As part of the school's effort to provide a safe classroom environment. Follow directions and practice safe lab procedures. Respect other's space, be careful with your equipment, and be spatially aware. You are responsible for cleaning up after yourself every day. We share this space together and want to provide a clean, organized working space for each student to help aid in success. Put away equipment neatly, and clean work space. See Contract below for more details. Safety consciousness is necessary in the effort to prevent possible incidents. **Please read these rules carefully and sign in the space provided. Your signature indicates that you have read these rules with your child and are aware of steps being taken to provide a safe instructional setting.**

The following list pertains to safety in the science classroom:

1. Horseplay in the science classroom is dangerous. I will practice safe conduct in the classroom.
2. Instructions concerning procedures and/or precautions are created for my protection. I will follow them.
3. Experiments done in class are for instruction. They are planned in order to teach an idea or concept. I will perform only authorized experiments.
4. I will handle only those chemicals or equipment for which I have received instructions or training.
5. Tasting, smelling or mixing unknown substances can be very dangerous. I will not do so unless instructed and trained to do so in a planned approved experiment.
6. Chemical containers are labeled to identify their contents. I will always carefully read the label to be sure I am using the correct substances.

7. Fire is dangerous and care must be taken when working with it. I will not reach across a flame or bring a flammable substance near flames. I will confine long hair to prevent it from catching fire. I will know where the fire extinguishers are located and how to use them.
8. Safety equipment is provided in the science classroom in case of emergency. I will know how to use this equipment.
9. Hot materials can cause serious burns. I will be extremely careful when working with these so as to prevent injury to myself and to others.
10. Safety goggles are required by law to be worn to prevent eye injury in many laboratory situations. I will wear my safety goggles and will take care of them. I will also wear other necessary apparel required for specific work.
11. Broken glass is dangerous. Leaving it lying around or picking it up with bare hands can cause serious injury. I will notify my teacher when glass is broken.
12. If an incident should occur that results in injury to myself or other(s) in the science classroom I will immediately report it to the instructor, no matter how minor the injury appears to me.
13. I will not eat or drink in the science classroom unless allowed by my science teacher.

Syllabus Quiz:

1. What is Mr. Erdman's email address? _____
2. What unit of study are looking most forward to? _____
3. What should you be doing when the bell rings? _____
4. If you are absent, where can you find your make-up assignments? _____
5. If you cheat, what are the consequences? _____
6. What percentage is daily work of your total grade? _____
Why do you think this is? _____
7. When is late work no longer accepted? _____

*****I have read the overview of Earth Science and the Science Safety Rules and agree to adhere to the guidelines above.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____