

EARTH SCIENCE

Mr. Matt Erdman a.k.a (Earth Man)

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SWJH: Room 202

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with your child this year in 8th grade Earth Science! I am sending this letter home with your child 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 with your child. You will also see **two** specific areas that I would like to request a signature by both you and your child, Lab Safety.

My top priority is for your child to have a successful experience in my 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 add a note to the bottom of this document, or give me a call. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Mr. Matt Erdman

Topics Covered this Year:

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



Grading:

- Student grades will be based on Summative Assessments (Tests), Projects and Lab Reports (90%) and Daily Work (10%)
- Retakes will be allowed on all tests, but extra practice will be given by the teacher and is expected to be completed before the retake is granted

Textbooks:

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

HONORS

8th grade EARTH Science honors classes cover the same units as the regular course, but more learning objectives are imbedded into those units.

Honors classes move at a quicker pace and, therefore, more work will be required to be completed outside of the school day.

Retakes on tests are still available to honors students, however, they are taken outside of class time and the student must take it upon themselves to do the extra practice or get some help before or after school.

Earth Science Supplies:

- Donation of tape, note cards and loose-leaf paper
- Colored Pencils 12 pack
- Pen and pencils

Infinite Campus = Grades

Grades will be posted on **Infinite Campus**, do not refer to the grades on Canvas for Science.

Students can be set up with an account. If you did not attend open house or are having problems, Laura Duff in the main office can assist with this. Parents must use the student log-in at this time.

CANVAS = Assignments

Pretty much all of the assignments will be located on CANVAS. This will be the one stop shop for assignments and turning in assignments electronically. We are one-to-one in science. We use iPads on a pretty consistent basis.

Points and Grading Scales:

In 8th grade Earth Science we use a 4 point grading scale. This means that each assignment will be given a score out of 4, each point on this scale is associated with the descriptors below. These scores are given in increments of 0.25.

4 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.

3 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.

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

1 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.

0 No Proficiency/Attempt = The student is not demonstrating any proficiency. His/her response does not show any understanding of the concept or skill in the standard.

100-93 A	4
92-80 A-	
79-76 B+	
75-68 B	3
67-60 B-	
59-53 C+	
52-46 C	2
45-40 C-	
39-33 D+	
32-25 D	1
24-20 D-	
19-0 F	

Science Safety Rules for Students

As part of the school's effort to provide a safe classroom environment, I request that you and your child read the attached list of science safety rules. A safe instructional program can only be carried out through the cooperation and encouragement of parents, teacher, and students. 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.

I have read the overview of Earth Science, the Earth Science PG Permission Page and the Science Safety Rules and agree to adhere to the guidelines above:

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____