

Middle School Earth Science Syllabus

Instructor Mr. Bryson

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Room 188

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Office Hours 7:30-8:00 & 3:30-4:00

Text:

Eighth Grade Text: (Glencoe) – Earth and Space

Description:

I want to welcome you to eighth grade Earth Science. The Earth science course is designed to interpret and understand the world around you. In order to do so, 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, web based investigations, class discussions, projects and research.

Goals:

The Common goals stretch across each curriculum.

- Investigate problems and find a solution supported by data and evidence.
- Interpret and communicate scientific information.
- Learn how to solve problems in a team atmosphere.
- Learn how manipulate technology to express scientific results.
- Connect science to other core subjects and the real world and see how different disciplines of science are related to the issues in everyday life.

Requirements:

Students are required to come class prepared and on time everyday. Students that misbehave during instructional time receive the following:

- Verbal warning
- Loss of Science Privileges (this could mean the student watches his/her team on the next experiment)
- Phone call /email to parent
- Detention
- Serious violations will result in a student being written up and sent to the Principal, these violations could result in parental conferences or even suspension.

Homework: I see homework as practice. We practice for sports to get better so we will do homework to get better at certain ideas or concepts that are important to your success. I do not give homework out every week but when it is given out I expect it to be completed so you can contribute to class discussions and participation. If it is not completed you will have 24hrs to show it is completed. You will fill out a student responsibility report and you will make an appointment to complete the homework or make arrangements to show me it is completed. For example, if you are in 6th period, then you need to find time before that period to show me it is completed. 5 minutes before class is not acceptable.

Make- Up Work: Make- up work will be in a designated area in my classroom. Each grade level will have a bin that has the make up work from the past and current week. You will have till the next grading period to turn in any missing work. After that I will mark it as a zero in the grade book.

Extra Support: If your child is struggling in science, please contact me and we can arrange some allotted times before or after school where I can tutor and help your student with their deficiencies. If other accommodations need to be made with the school please feel free to contact me so we can provide your child with the support they need.

I allow retakes on any test or quiz that you are not satisfied with. You will need to fill out a retake form and show me that you have tried or used different methods to study and understand the material. Once that is done you will be allowed to retake.

Materials:

- Composition/Notebook is mandatory for science class; assignments **CAN NOT** be completed on loose sheets of papers.
- Pencil
- Homework

Grading Scale:

TEAM GRADING SCALE	
A	100 - 90
B	89-80
C	79-70
D	69-60
F	59-50
Did not turn in the assignment	0

CATEGORY	PERCENTAGE	SUGGESTED FREQUENCY
Exams	25%	Over Major Topics (5 per Semester)
Notebook	35%	Checked Twice Monthly (8)
Class participation	10%	Opportunities for Success (Must Participate)
Quizzes	15%	1-2 per week
Labs (8) Formal Lab write up	15%	1-2 per Semester

Remember I'm here to make sure that your child has a successful year. If you have any questions or concerns about the requirements, policies, or how your student is doing in class please contact me at any time. This page is proof that you have read and understand the goals and procedures of Mr. Bryson's science class. Please sign below and return this portion only.

Student Name

Parent/Guardian Name

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Daytime Phone #

Parent/Guardian e- mail address

Student Responsibility Reports

Date_____ Printed Name_____ Class Period_____

Completing your assignments is your responsibility as a student.

Name of missing work_____

I did not get my work completed because:

Next time I can do this differently so I can get my work in:

Student signature: _____

Request to Retest

The Basics:

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class Period: _____

Name of test I wish to retake: _____

Reflection:

What did I do to prepare for the original test?

Action: Three activities I have done to improve my understanding:

1.

2.

3.

When would you like to retake the test: _____

Attach: Proof of your 3 activities (flash cards you made, address of websites, vocab lists, ect.)

Request: I request the opportunity to retest. I have worked very hard to improve my understanding.

Signed: _____