



Mariner High School

Earth and Space Course Syllabus 2009 - 2010

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Course Description

This one-year required laboratory science course will promote and encourage student involvement in the sciences, and teach critical skills and understandings essential for success in future science classes and on state testing. Topics will include integration of concepts covered within 8th grade science, astronomy, the geologic history of the Earth, the processes that shape the Earth, the study of common rocks and minerals, and how these affect life on Earth.

Materials

- Binder
- Scientific Calculator
- Colored Pencils
- No. 2 Pencils*
- Paper
- Standard blue or black ink pens*
- Composition book
- Ruler

* Student work will only be accepted in standard blue ink, standard black ink, or No. 2 pencil.

Textbook(s)

Earth Science: Geology, the Environment, and the Universe

Glencoe McGraw-Hill

ISBN 0-07-821592-7

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Homework

During the semester homework will be assigned on a regular basis. Homework is designed to get students thinking about the different subjects we are learning in class. The day after an assignment is given we will be discussing the homework in class and examining the responses students have given and the reasons for those responses.. During the semester five (5) of the homework assignments will be collected and graded per student. Each of these collected assignments will be worth 20 points. **If a student is found to be plagiarizing an assignment the rules set forth in the student code of conduct will be followed.**

Formative Assessment

Many activities during the school year will be designed to assess student understanding of different topics and concepts studied within the class. These may take a variety of forms within the class such as exit passes, in class discussions, or short written tasks. Due to their nature and how they are used by the teacher these tasks will not be counted towards the grade. They will merely be used to guide and focus instruction within the class.

Tests

During each semester there will be four (4) tests given and each test will be worth 100 points. Tests will cover material that is covered within class, class work, homework, and labs. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that they are prepared for the test. All testing dates will be posted in advance on the assignment board behind the Mt. Nash's desk as well as the class web site.

During tests, students will work quietly by themselves. If a student is seen talking during a test or looking at another student's work, this will be considered cheating. Students will be given one warning to stop this behavior. The second observed offense will result in a zero on the test.

If a student misses a test due to an **excused** absence he/she will be responsible for scheduling time to make up the test with Mr. Nash. Tests must be made up within a reasonable time of the absence or on a date decided upon by Mr. Nash in the event of an extended absence.

Labs

During the semester we will perform at least ten (10) formal labs to investigate various topics in the Earth and Space Sciences. Each lab will be graded on a 40 point scale that will follow the rubric students will have glued into their lab journals. Each student is also required to have a single subject composition book to record their labs in. This lab book will be kept in class.

Research Project

During each semester students will be required to do a research project based upon an assigned science theme. The project will be graded on a 100 point scale.

Attendance and Make up Work

Because of the nature of laboratory science class attendance is extremely important in order to maintain a passing grade. In the event that a student misses a lab or homework the student will be responsible for discussing the missed work with the teacher and agreeing upon a timeline to get the work completed. Labs must be made up within a two week period of missing class as materials can not be stored in class for lengthy periods of time. As with tests only work missed when a student has an excused absence will be allowed to be made up.

Due to the time needed to make up a lab the time to make up a lab must be scheduled for after school.

Grading Procedures

Student's grades will be based on homework and classwork, in class tests and quizzes, labs, projects, and research papers. Assignments will be worth different amounts of points that will be added together and divided by the total number of possible points to come up with a grade. Grades will be assigned as follows:

A	= 93% and up	B-	= 80% to 82.9%	D+	= 67% to 69.9%
A -	= 90% to 92.9%	C+	= 77% to 79.9%	D	= 60% to 66.9%
B+	= 87% to 89.9%	C	= 73% to 76.9%	F	= below 59.9%
B	= 83% to 86.9%	C-	= 70% to 72.9%		

Classroom Expectations

Every student in Mr. Nash's classroom will follow the following rules:

1. Be respectful towards the teacher, staff, and students.
2. Keep the room and work areas clean.
3. Come to class prepared to learn.
4. Keep personal items not necessary for class in a bag or locker.
5. Follow the rules within the lab safety contract.
6. **Follow school wide rules and expectations as outlined in the student handbook.**

Additional Assistance

Mr. Nash is available before school and after school and by appointment at lunch to help students. Students are advised to inform Mr. Nash that they will be coming in for help in order to avoid school related scheduling conflicts (i.e. staff meetings, parent conferences, etc.). Students can also email questions to Mr. Nash using the email address listed above.