

2023-2024 Grade 9 Earth Science Mr. Ojala: Room 387

Course material outline:

- I. Introduction, Scientific Method, Measurement, Lab Safety
- II. Astronomy / Space Science
- III. Meteorology & Climate
- IV. Oceanography / Plate Tectonics
- V. Geology / Energy

Teacher hours: I will be available before class daily starting at 8:00 am. My class will also be open at lunch or after school by appointment and weekly during *office hours* for extra credit, studying / tutoring and make-up work or tests.

Grading policy: Grading will be calculated according to this grading system:

90-100% = A 80-89% = B 70-79 % = C
60-69% = D under 60% = F

Late assignments (without a documented excuse) are subject to an up to 50% score reduction.

Assignment types and grade weighting: Grades will be based on an accumulation of points. Weekly bell work assignments will generally be 5 points, with in class assignments and homework assignments also made to be worth 5 points. Lab reports will be worth 12-25 points, while quizzes and unit tests will be worth either 50 or 100 points. *All quizzes and tests (including the semester final exams) are open notes. Extra credit is allowed in my class, but it is very important to keep up with assignments and homework so that you do not fall behind.*

Homework will be assigned no more than twice a week. Homework almost always consists of finishing an assignment already explained and begun in class, or studying for a quiz or test. It is due at the beginning of the next class meeting unless otherwise instructed.

Assignments missed due to absence are to be made up during office hours, or on your *own* time as soon as possible. All work completed should have your name, the date, class period, and assignment name identified in the upper right-hand corner of the paper.

Materials: Paper (a folder or 3-ring binder works best so that you can keep your hand-outs, notes, and assignments together), pencil / pen, no required textbook

Attendance: Although attendance is not figured directly into your grade, a few absences can seriously affect your performance in this class, and assignments, labs and quizzes missed while you are away are *your* responsibility to determine and make up, usually outside of regular class time.

Other class procedures:

The class (and school) expectation for being on time is that you should be in your seat, with your materials, ready to go as soon as the bell rings. (Passing time is five minutes.)

The bathroom pass should not be used during the first or last five minutes of class, but can be used with permission at any other time.

Recycling of office paper and empty drink containers is available near the door.

Food and drinks other than water should not be consumed in class due to their potential for spills or distractions to lessons and labs.

The class policy for cell phones and music players is that they should be turned off and stowed away during class time, so that we can focus on science literacy and growth. Tests are open notes, and students are encouraged to be active participants in the joyous pursuit of knowledge.

Class rules: Be Safe

- Use common sense.
- Use equipment properly, safely.
- Be aware of your surroundings.

Be Respectful

- Respect the teacher and your peers.
- Be an active learner.
- Be kind to others (use the golden rule.)

Be Responsible

- Come to class prepared & on time.
- Plan ahead / pay attention to due dates.
- Ask for help when you / others need it.

Be a Graduate

- Study hard and don't procrastinate.
- Try your hardest.
- Focus and push yourself.

Be a KNIGHT!

- Keep a positive attitude
- Be involved.
- Have school pride / spirit

Class expectations:

1. Respect each other and focus on learning.
2. Be timely.
3. Come to class prepared.
4. Actively listen and give your full attention to class discussions (not yours.)
5. Exercise the Golden Rule.

**Be Safe.
Be Respectful.
Be Responsible.
Be a Graduate.
Be a KNIGHT!**



Response if classroom expectations are not met.

- 1st: Warning.
- 2nd: Talk after class / class discussion / detention & parent contact.
- 3rd: Detention / phone call home.
- 4th: Detention / parent contact / Office Discipline Referral.
- 5th: Notify assistant principal / parent contact / further discipline.

I can be reached at the number or e-mail listed below if you would like to discuss any aspect of your and/or your child's involvement in this class. Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Eric Ojala, 9th Grade Science Educator
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