

Honors Earth Science Course Expectations

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Course Description: Honors Earth science is a rigorous course that maintains a steady pace to ensure that students meet all of the required learning outcomes for the course by the end of each semester. This course focuses heavily on preparing students to be successful in higher level science courses, such as other honors science courses and AP science courses, while emphasizing SAT prep as an embedded component in the curriculum. Throughout this course students will practice and develop a variety of academic skills as they investigate and deepen their knowledge of Earth science concepts.

- Reading and writing with emphasis on scientific literacy
- Academic writing: quoting, paraphrasing, and citing sources; i.e. academic honesty
- Math and graphing skills, with emphasis on data analysis
- The Scientific method and experimental design
- Laboratory procedures and scientific measurement skills; e.g. the metric system
- Analysis of maps and other figures such as charts and diagrams
- Technology: navigating the internet, developing word processing and spreadsheet skills
- Test taking skills: both multiple choice and written response strategies
- Collaboration with peers and effective communication
- Time management: planning, problem solving, and self-advocacy

Learning Objective: Honors Earth science students will learn to read the Earth and sky to bring meaning to what they see in the natural environment. To this end, this course aims to teach students how to analyze, interpret, and understand their environment by studying the major disciplines of Earth science and learning how they interact.

- **Geology**—Students will understand how landforms were created by processes in Earth’s past, how they’ve changed over time, and to predict how they may change well into the future.
- **Meteorology, Oceanography, and Climatology**—Students will be able to look to the sky and our vast bodies of water to understand how they interact and why weather and climate patterns develop locally, regionally and globally, to draw informed conclusions about weather and climate.
- **Astronomy**—Students will understand Earth’s place in the universe, including: how the universe, galaxies, stars and our sun, our solar systems and planets formed. Correspondingly, students will learn about the energy and forces that govern the motion of celestial objects such as stars, our sun and moon, planets, comets and asteroids and how they affect life on Earth.
- **Earth System Science**—Students will learn how the lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere interact to create our dynamic planet.

Topic Sequence

- **Semester 1:** intro, minerals, rocks & the rock cycle, volcanoes, plate tectonics, earthquakes, topographic and geologic maps
- **Semester 2:** astronomy, the water cycle, oceans, climate and weather

Textbook: Pearson Earth Science, Tarbuck and Lutgens; 2017—Students will have access to the online textbook.

Classwork and Homework

- Classwork and homework are assigned in class and posted on Schoology with due dates.
- Because this course maintains a steady pace, students are often expected to finish classwork for homework.
- The teacher reviews upcoming assignments on Schoology every day at the beginning of class to remind students of upcoming due dates, quizzes, and tests.
- Unless stated otherwise, assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the due date assigned.

Course Grading Structure

Your Earth science instructor will update the gradebook at least once per week and post grades to progress eligibility on Infinite Campus every Monday morning. Students are expected to use Infinite Campus to track their grades and to resolve any late/missing assignments, or concerns they may have about their grade with their teacher immediately. It is important to know that a zero in Infinite Campus means the assignment was not turned in.

Each semester your grade will be calculated using the following weighting percentages:

Product: Tests, quizzes, projects, and final exam.....60%

Process: Assignments, labs, and activities40%

Final Exam: At the end of each semester students will take a comprehensive final exam that assesses all of the material covered throughout the semester. The final exam is weighted as 15% of the student’s overall average.

The grading scale in this class follows:

A 90-100% B 80-89% C 70-79% D 60-69% F-59% and below

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Earning Required Credits Towards Graduation: A minimum average of 60% is required to earn credit for each semester (5 credits per semester, 10 credits per year). 30 credits of science are required to graduate from DPS high schools.

Policies & Guidelines

- **When to Talk to Your Teacher:** Teacher-Student conversations regarding absences and/or student grades should take place at lunch, after school, or by email and not during class or passing period. Your teacher has no obligation to discuss make-up work during class or passing period.
- **Make-Up Work is the Students Responsibility:** It is the student's responsibility to determine their make-up work and/or missing assignments.
- **Planned Absences:** Students that are planning an absence need to have a discussion with the teacher to determine what they are going to miss and plan with the teacher how the work will be completed and when it will be due.
- **Unexpected Absences Due to Illness or Emergencies:** In the case of an unexpected absence, students should check Schoology to determine what they've missed. Then follow-up with the teacher to obtain materials, if needed, discuss due dates, and ask questions about the assignments.
- **Follow-Up on Absences Immediately:** Students are expected to follow up with their teacher about unexpected absences on the day they return to school and complete the assignments, labs, quizzes, or tests within the timeframe of the DPS Make-Up Work Policy. It is especially important to make-up labs immediately upon returning to school because they will only be set-up for a few days after the initial lab period.
- **DPS Make-Up Work Policy:** Students have the number of days they were absent, plus one day to complete make-up work (DPS Policy). For example, a student that was absent for two days has two days plus one day, which equals three days to complete the work they missed.
- **Late Work Penalty—50% Off the Grade Earned:** All assignments that are not turned in by the due date, including due dates that were negotiated because of an excused absence are considered late. All late work, regardless of whether it is one or five days late are accepted for 50% off the grade earned. Work that is turned in late from unexcused absences are accepted for 50% off the grade. If the student missed the class but was at school that day, all assignments due that day are still required to be turned in. If the assignments are turned in the next day, the work is considered late at 50% off. Finally, late-work is only accepted from the current unit of study; i.e. assignments from previous units are not accepted.
- **Speak Up If You're Having a Hard Time!** Please speak to you teacher if you have encountered a hardship and wish to request more time to complete an assignment. If there is something interfering with your ability to complete work on-time, or at all, in the short or long term, the first step is always a conversation with your teacher who will make reasonable accommodations for a short-term situation, or will help implement further strategies or interventions if there is an ongoing situation.
- **Extra Help and Support:** Your teacher will be available for extra help almost every day during lunch and by appointment after school. Additionally, students should use office hours to conference with their teacher. Please feel free to come by whenever you have a question.
- **Do Not Skip Tests!** If the student misses a test due to an absence, the student needs to arrange to take the test as soon as they return to school. If a test is not made up in the appropriate timeframe, a zero will be entered in the gradebook.
- **Online and Paper Assignment Expectations:** Online assignments are expected to be turned in online and paper assignments are expected to be turned on paper. If a student prints a Schoology assignment and turns it in, it will not be graded. Similarly, if a student emails a picture of a paper assignment to the teacher it will not be graded.
- **Academic Honesty:** Copying another students work is not acceptable. When the teacher encounters work that has obviously been copied from another student, it will not be graded and a zero will be entered into the gradebook for the assignment, for both students. Additionally, copying and pasting from the internet is plagiarism, and is unacceptable. When the teacher encounters work that has obviously been copied from the internet, it will not be graded and a zero will be entered into the gradebook. For academic writing assignments—such as research papers—when writing information and ideas that are not your own, you must give credit to the author(s) by citing sources.

Expectations for Appropriate Student Conduct

- A general guide to student conduct is summarized with the **5 P's**—*Positive, Polite, Prepared, Prompt, Productive*
- Students who interfere with or disrupt the learning process will receive written or verbal warnings and calls home.
- In addition, interventions requiring meetings and restorative conversations may be necessary to determine the best path forward for students that habitually disrupt the learning environment.
- Meeting may involve: student/teacher, student/teacher/administrator, or student/teacher/administrator/parents.

Required materials:

- Spiral notebook, college-ruled
- Pens/pencils and Erasers

Optional materials:

- Graphing notebook with 4 squares per inch (or loose-leaf graph paper)
- Highlighter(s)