**Earth Science Syllabus** ’18-‘19

Welcome to Earth Science! I am very excited about this year and the students in my class. Although science can sometimes be challenging, I feel confident that together we will be successful in mastering this material through hard work and dedication to learning. Because of the state requirements, we have a great deal to cover in a short amount of time, which requires that each student fully apply him/herself.

In order to prepare your child for the standards of learning (SOLs), this class will be very structured. Throughout each week the student will receive notes pertaining to each section of the chapter. We will also be completing activities and labs to reinforce important concepts. Quizzes will be given daily to assess the student’s understanding of each section and tests will generally be given at the end of each chapter or unit. To reinforce the importance of working well as a team, Focus (class introductory) activities will be recorded as a group in a journal, daily, and graded periodically. Homework is also an essential part of this course and is required in order for the student to do well in the class. The student will almost always have a reading assignment to review and/or prepare for the following day. If your son or daughter will keep up with the weekly requirements and complete chapter assignments and class work, he/she should do very well in mastering the material.

At certain points **throughout** the semester, the student will be assessed for comprehension of the material. If he/she does not meet the requirements they may be asked to stay after school for remediation.

I look forward to an exciting and successful year!

Carlie Owen

**Course Description:**

The Earth Science standards connect the study of the Earth’s composition, structure, processes, and history; its atmosphere, fresh water, and oceans; and its environment in space. The standards emphasize historical contributions in the development of scientific thought about the Earth and space. The standards stress interpretation of maps, charts, tables, and profiles; the uses of technology to collect, analyze, and report data; and the utilization of science skills in systematic investigation. Problem solving and decision making are an integral part of the standards, especially as they relate to the costs and benefits of utilizing the Earth’s resources. Major topics of study include plate tectonics, the rock cycle, Earth history, the oceans, the atmosphere, weather and climate, and the solar system and universe.

**Grading:** Tests= 35%

Quizzes= 30%

Labs/Activities= 25%

Homework/ Classwork= 10%

**Tests-** Tests will count for 35% of the nine-week grade and will be given periodically to assess the student’s understanding of the material, generally consisting of information from each unit.

**Quizzes-** Quizzes will be given to assess mastery of key concepts daily. They will be count for 30% of the nine- week grade.

**Labs/Activities-** Lab assignments and class activities to reinforce concepts will be assigned regularly. They will count for 25% of the nine-week grade. Participation is mandatory and completion of complementary materials will be assessed for completion and/or correctness.

**Homework/Class work-** Homework and daily class assignments will each count for 10% of the nine-week grade. Grades for such assignments will be taken on a daily basis to assess progress in the course. Homework for the day can be found on the board and is expected to be completed, if assigned. Failure to complete homework will result in after-school detention. If absent, arrangements will need to be made to complete and turn in the work. Assignments missed can be found in the homework folder when returning.

**Class materials needed:**

* 3-ring binder
* 1 (100) pack of 3”x 5” index cards
* Paper
* Writing utensils
* Colored pencils (optional)
* Textbook (issued by school)

**Grading Scale**

A 95-100

1. 92-94

B+ 89-91

B 86-88

1. 83-85

C+ 80-82

C 77-79

1. 74-76

D+ 71-73

D 65-70

F 0-64

If at any time during the semester you have any questions or concerns about your son/daughter, please do not hesitate to call the school and set up an appointment to talk with me. Emails are also welcome and encouraged. I will be happy to provide you with reports as to how your child is progressing in my class.

School Phone # 540- 261-2127

My Email: [carlie.shanks@bvcps.net](mailto:carlie.shanks@bvcps.net)

**Expectations:**

1. Obey all school rules without exception.
2. Respect yourself, your classmates, and the teacher.
3. Give 100% effort for the entire class period each and every day.
4. No food or drinks in the classroom. Water is ok ☺
5. No backpacks, purses, or sports bags in the classroom.
6. Cell phones **must** be turned in if brought into the classroom.
7. Be on time and **prepared for class** (textbooks, homework, writing utensils). Students will NOT be permitted to return to locker to get class materials.
8. No late homework will be accepted. If absent, follow handbook rules.
9. Homework will generally be turned in as soon as the tardy bell rings.
10. It will be the **responsibility of the student to ask the teacher** for any missed assignment due to absence.

Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** What do I need to bring to class each day?

**A:** All materials needed such as homework, textbook, binder, paper, and a **pen or pencil.**

**Q:** What do I do if I am absent from class?

**A:** Check the homework folder for missing work. If nothing is in there for you, verify with your teacher that there was no written work for that day. If a test or quiz was missed, please make it up within four school days.

**Q:** Can I bring my cell phone to class?

**A:** Cell phones may be brought to class, but must be turned in to the cell phone box. If you are not comfortable putting your phone in the box, please leave it in your locker or at home. Students who request to charge their phone during class, may do so on a first-come-first-served basis on the charging station, but may not access the phone until dismissal.

**Q:** Should I bring my backpack or other bags to class?

**A:** Because of limited space, all backpacks need to be left in your locker. Any backpacks brought to class, will be placed in the window area outside the classroom door.

**Q:** Will we get to do anything fun this year?

**A:** I certainly hope so! This year our Earth Science class plans to continue its partnership with Boxerwood Garden. In this past, this has enabled us to do several fun and educational experiments both inside and outside of the classroom.

**Course Schedule (tentative and subject to changes)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Unit** | **Chapter** | **Quizzes/ Tests** |
| 1 | Chapter 1- Intro to Earth Science & Scientific Method  Chapter 2- Earth in Space  Chapter 18- Earth’s Past  Chapter 19- History of Continents | Daily Quizzes  Chapter 1-2 Test  Chapter 18-19 Test |
| 2 | Chapter 3- Models of the Earth  Chapter 4- Plate Tectonics  Chapter 5- Deformation of the Crust  Chapter 6- Earthquakes  Chapter 7- Volcanoes | Map Quiz  Daily Quizzes  Chapter 3 Test  Chapter 4-5 Test  Chapter 6-7 Test |
| 3 | Chapter 8- Earth Chemistry  Chapter 9- Minerals of the Earth’s Crust  Chapter 10- Rocks  Chapter 11- Resources and Energy  Chapter 17- The Rock Record | Daily Quizzes  Chapter 8 Test  Chapter 9-10 Test  Chapter 11 Test  Chapter 17 Test |
| 4 | Chapter 12- Weathering and Erosion  Chapter 13- Water and Erosion  Chapter 14- Groundwater and Erosion  Chapter 15- Glaciers and Erosion  Chapter 16- Erosion by Wind and Waves | Daily Quizzes  Chapter 12 Test  Chapter 13-14 Test  Chapter 15-16 Test |
| 5 | Chapter 20- Ocean Basins  Chapter 21- Ocean Water  Chapter 22- Movements of the Ocean | Daily Quizzes  Chapter 20-22 Test |
| 6 | Chapter 23- The Atmosphere  Chapter 24- Water in the Atmosphere  Chapter 25- Weather  Chapter 26- Climate | Daily Quizzes  Chapter 23-24 Test  Chapter 25-26 Test |
| 7 | Chapter 27- Stars and Galaxies  Chapter 28- The Sun  Chapter 29- The Solar System  Chapter 30- Moons and Rings | Daily Quizzes  Chapter 27-28 Test  Chapter 29-30 Test |