Earth Science

Mr. Fitzgerald

**Course Objectives:**Earth science is the study of the environment in which we live. Observation of our natural environment promotes discussion and explanation of natural phenomena. This course is designed to provide background concerning how the Earth changes and the processes causing this change. In addition, we will look at our role as humans on this Earth. As students, your responsibility is to extend what you learn in the classroom to events outside the classroom. As the teacher, my responsibility is to provide the tools and opportunities for this transfer of knowledge to occur.   
  
**Classroom Expectations**:

1. Respect Everyone

2. Respect Everything

3. If any questions, please see rule 1 and 2 or ask your teacher.

Cheating is not tolerated, preparation is expected; so be honest in all of your work and actions and come to class prepared!

The expectations for the students and teacher are simple. Everyone is treated with respectful and courteous behavior. Respect begins with being on time for class. Tardiness and absences are recorded daily and you must be in your seat at the bell to be counted present. Cases of repeated and unexplained tardiness will be dealt with according to school policy.   
  
**Special Note:** Discussion is an integral part of this class; however, this does not permit wandering dialogues to overtake the task at hand. Furthermore, deadlines are established for all assignments. If these deadlines cannot be met, discuss extensions with me prior to the due date. Finally, if anyone has special concerns, needs, or modifications let me know. Resource time is an excellent time to come to me for help on subject matter that you are having a difficult time with. It is difficult to achieve one's full potential when the proper instruction is not implemented.

**Topics of Study:**

1. What is Science?

2. Earth Composition

3. Geochemistry

4. Minerals and Rocks

5. Dating the Earth

6. Geologic Time Periods

7. Plate Tectonics

8. Weather

9. Space

**Resources:**

1. Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, Earth Science
2. Mr. Fitzgerald
3. A friend who is understanding the topic
4. The internet

**Necessary Supplies:**

1. Pen and pencil
2. Folder w/ pockets
3. loose leaf paper/ notebook
4. A desire to understand the world around you

**Mr. Fitzgerald – Science – Grading Scale**

Grading Scale is based on raw points/% points available. Letter Grade is consistent with district-wide grading scale. Physics, Chemistry, and Human A&P all receive 7% mark-up on raw points for tests or quizzes worth over 30 raw points due to the more demanding nature of those classes; this adjustment results in the final letter grade for that test or quiz.

Late homework, class assignments, or incomplete assignments (lack of effort) will automatically receive a grade of 50%. But you may turn in late assignments at any time. In other words, late is late. You will have one day to make up missed assignments in order to retain full credit.

If you miss the day of a test (or quiz) or the day before a test, on the day you come back you must have the test completed by the end of the second school day (does not have to be consecutive) to gain full credit. Each school day beyond that will result in a deduction of 5 raw points.

Homework/class assignments will typically be graded out of 10 or 20 total points not a tally of total points. An adjusted scale is used to grade these assignments as they are not based on a point for point system.

Scale for 10 point assignments: -1 9/10 90%

-2-3 8/10 80%

-4-6 7/10 70%

-7+ 6/10 60%

Scale for 20 point assignments: -1 19/20 95%

-2 18/20 90%

-3-4 17/20 85%

-5-6 16/20 80%

-7-8 15/20 75%

-8-9 14/20 70%

-10+ 13/20 65%

**Positive Participation Points** – Block classes will receive 15 pp points each term. Year long classes will receive 10 pp points each term. These points are extra credit and can help your grade significantly. They are based on how well you POSTIVELY PARTICIPATE while in class. That means pp points can be deducted for *tardies, not being prepared, behavior, preventing others from learning or me from teaching or insubordination* (not using given class time to work/not following directions). PP Points are yours to lose, you may not be told when they are deducted, so behave and work when asked to and you will retain them.

**Extra Credit** – Extra credit opportunities will randomly come up. If you have an idea for an extra credit assignment ask me about it. A student will NOT be awarded extra credit if they are missing assignments for that term.

**Checking your grade –** I advise you to check your grade periodically to see how you are performing. This has to take place during breaks in lecture or work periods or on your own time. Do not ask to see your grades if I am teaching class.

**Attendance and Discipline Policy**

**Absences:**

For questions pertaining to grades when absent see the grading section. If you miss class, all assignments done during that time will be in that subject's box located by the west wall. Ask me as soon as you can if you have any questions about missed assignments. You will have one day after you are back from absence to make up assignments and retain full credit.

**Tardies:**

1. You must be in class and ready to work when the bell rings.

2. You will receive a verbal warning that your tardy has been notated for the first two tardies.

**Classroom Behavior:**

1. Your behavior should follow what is: deemed socially acceptable by the teacher or outlined in the student handbook and school constitution.

2. Any behavior contrary to what is stated in the above sentence will result in a verbal warning.

3. A second warning for behavior will result in being sent to the principal's office.

4. Excessive or repeated disruptive/disrespectful behavior will result in being immediately sent to the principal's office.

**Classroom expectations:**

1. You are not to bring the following into the classroom: a backpack, food, cans of soda/liquid, cell phones, or any musical device etc.

2. If you are present with a backpack after the bell has rang you will be asked to return it to your locker resulting in a tardy (as outlined above).

3. Food and cans of soda in the classroom after the bell rings will be thrown away.

4. Cell phones/mp3's etc. if seen or heard will be confiscated by the teacher and held until the end of the day. If there is a second offense, your cell phone/mp3 player etc. will be confiscated and sent to the principal's office, at which point a parent will have to pick it up for you.