



Regents Earth Science

Course Guidelines

2021-2022

Mr. Wetmore

Welcome

Earth Science is the study of several different processes and systems that shape our planet, its atmosphere and even beyond. I will do my best to make this course informative and enjoyable for everyone.

Classroom Guidelines

OUR GOAL IS TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND DISTRACTION FREE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS

Any student whose behavior does not support our goal will be asked to correct their behavior. If inappropriate behavior(s) continue, a parent/guardian will be informed and the student will be referred to the principle.

Very simply:

- Safety - Do not put yourself or someone else in an unsafe situation.
- Courteous - Toward everyone (Do NOT become a distraction in class)

Some specifics:

- The school rules outlined in the student handbook will be enforced.
- Use of phones, earbuds, headphones, etc... is NOT permitted.
 - PHONES/EARBUDS must be stored out of view (they've become distractions)
- Use of provided note-taking guides is mandatory (taking notes is not an optional activity)
- Do not touch other students or their materials.
- Responsibly and properly use classroom materials and laboratory equipment.
- No disrespectful language toward others - additionally, no 'attention-seeking' noises or language that is off topic.
- Politely follow the instructions/requests of any adult in the classroom to include substitute teachers and teacher aides.

Supplies

- Pencil(s) and Eraser (Only pencils, or a mechanical pencil, should be used in science)
 - I will supply colored pencils, if needed.
 - A pencil sharpener will be available in the classroom for your use.
- Scientific Calculator (example: Texas Instruments TI-30XA ~\$12 @ Wal-Mart)

Daily Routine

Arrive on time and be prepared for class. Please be seated as attendance is taken and homework is checked. Our time together will be very busy, so **come to class ready to work**. If you forget your materials, you will NOT be permitted to go to your locker and get them, instead, I will provide you with paper to write down the information required to complete your notes. During our lessons, topic related discussions are welcome, but **only one person should be talking at a time**. Do NOT bring food or drinks into the classroom (this includes gum and lollipops). Only one student will be permitted to use the bathroom at a time. **At the end of the period, I - not the bell - will dismiss you.**

Grading

According to Unatego Central School policy, tests make up 90 percent of your grade and homework makes up the remaining 10 percent.

Tests and **quizzes** will be recorded as test scores (90 percent of your grade). **Labs** will be recorded as homework scores; however, **they will be weighed more than a regular homework assignment**. Of course, regular homework assignments will also be recorded as homework scores.

*Extra Credit: There will be **NO extra credit** opportunities. However, you may retake any failed exam after receiving tutoring from me and demonstrating that you have a better understanding of the material.*

Retest Policy: Any student that would like to retake a test must complete the following process **within one week** of the date the original exam was administered...

1. Meet with me to review/discuss each of the questions that were missed.
2. Take the same exam again (after completing any tutoring associated with step 1 above) until you earn a score of at least 80 percent. This will 'qualify' you to take the retest exam.
3. Take the retest exam. This retest exam will be different than the original exam; however, it will cover the same topics. The grade you earn on this retest exam will be averaged with your original grade to compute your 'retest grade'. This retest grade will be entered into the grade to replace your original test grade.

****IMPORTANT: Students that did NOT complete the homework assignments associated with the material covered on the test WILL NOT be permitted to retest (unless the reason for not completing their homework assignments is explained in a note from a parent/guardian)**

Lab Minutes (a New York State Requirement to take the Regents Exam)

New York State Core Curriculum Laboratory Requirements: "As a prerequisite for admission to the Regents examination in Physical Setting/Earth Science, students must have successfully completed 1200 minutes of "hands-on" laboratory experiences with satisfactory written reports for each laboratory investigation."

Students must successfully complete lab reports for the following 25 labs in order to earn the required 1200 minutes in order to take the Final Exam and the Regents exam in June.

Parallax, Density, H-R Diagram, Eccentricity, Solar Eclipses, Altitude and Latitude, Latitude & Longitude, Duration of INSOLATION, 3D Model of Subduction, Epicenters (1 & 2), INSOLATION and Albedo, Specific Heat, Coastal Factors, Satellite Imagery, Flat Bottom Clouds, Isopleths, Weather Forecasting Computer Models, Porosity and Permeability, Topographic Maps (1 & 2), Mineral Properties, Igneous Rocks, Metamorphic Rocks, Culminating Rock Identification.

You will have at least one week to complete each lab report. Lab reports will usually consist of answering a set of questions found throughout and/or at the end of the lab. Many labs will also require you to produce data tables and graphs as part of your analysis. A week is plenty of time to complete the lab questions/graphs - if you plan your time wisely.

You will lose 10 points for every day that a lab is late (to a maximum of 30 points). **Labs more than 3 days late will receive a grade of zero** (however, they will still be evaluated for accuracy to earn the lab minutes associated with that lab to earn the "Regents Credit" for the lab requirement).

If you fail a lab, you may earn half of the points lost on the lab by submitting corrections that must be neatly done on a separate sheet of paper and attached to the original lab.

I will announce/post the names of students that are more than one week late completing any lab on a daily basis until the lab is completed to serve as a reminder of this New York State mandated requirement - and to remind them that I'm available every day during tutorial and am willing to stay afterschool to assist them if they need help completing the lab. Additionally, if a student begins to become overdue on multiple labs I will contact their parent/guardian to inform them of the situation.

The last day to **perform** labs to earn the required lab minutes is May 26, 2022.
The last day to **turn-in** lab reports to earn required minutes is June 3, 2022.

Homework

A majority of homework assignments in this course will be assigned through the Castle Learning Online homework system. If you have not previously established an account, you will receive instructions to do this in the near future.

When used properly, this system has been proven to be very helpful. It is specifically designed to assist you in learning the objectives of this course. In addition to letting you know immediately if you answered the question incorrectly, it will often provide you with a hint and allow you to submit a second response. If you do not submit the correct answer after two attempts, it will frequently fully explain the correct answer. It is almost like having your own personal homework tutor.

Most assignments will be around 12 questions and are due by 7:00 am the next school day. However, for my afternoon classes: homework will be due by the end of tutorial the next school day (this ensures all students the availability of one tutorial period to complete their homework).

If you are one day late, the maximum score you'll receive is a 60 percent.

Homework assignments completed more than one day late will receive a zero.

(Note: Students absent on the date assigned will receive an extension)

If you did not have access to the Internet on the evening a Castle Learning assignment was due – simply bring in a note signed by your parent/guardian stating that fact, and you will have another chance to complete the assignment without being penalized for a late assignment.

Absences

If you miss class for any reason, it is your responsibility to get any notes and/or assignments that you missed. If you are absent for an extended time, you will receive a modified due date. Being absent for a 'review day' prior to a test will not be an excuse for not taking the test as scheduled.

To succeed in this course:

- ✓ Attend class regularly: prepared to listen and learn.
- ✓ Complete all homework assignments (being focused and using your notes).
- ✓ Use tutorial period and study halls to complete assignments.
- ✓ Properly prepare for tests by studying your notes (not just 'looking them over').
- ✓ Properly prepare for tests by reviewing completed homework assignments.
- ✓ Complete 'practice test' assignments created specifically for you to prepare for tests.

I will do the following to help you succeed:

- ✓ Present lessons in a simple, straight-forward manner - focusing on main points.
- ✓ Provide you with note-taking guides ('guided notes') for each lesson.
- ✓ Provide 'in-class' practice activities and labs to reinforce class material.
- ✓ Establish fair due dates for all homework and lab assignments.
- ✓ Remind you daily of due dates for all homework and lab assignments.
- ✓ Announce all tests and quizzes well ahead of time (no surprises).

Conclusion:

You will have to take responsibility for your own learning. Many of you will soon be accepting the responsibility of driving a vehicle. If you are old enough for that responsibility, you certainly are old enough to behave appropriately in class, complete all assignments on-time and do the things necessary to be successful in this course.

Agreement

I have read, understood, and agree to follow the guidelines of appropriate behavior for a classroom at all times to avoid disruptions and to provide a safe learning environment for everyone. I understand that I must successfully complete the 25 mandatory labs in order to earn the lab minutes required to take the Regents exam. I understand that if I do not complete homework assignments within one day after the original due date (within 3 days for labs), I will receive a grade of zero for that assignment/lab.

Student Signature

Print: _____ Sign: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Print: _____ Sign: _____

PARENTS/GUARDIANS: Please provide a preferred e-mail address that I can use to communicate with you about events in our classroom. Many parents of students I've had many parents previously state that they enjoy keeping informed about things like dates for upcoming tests and quizzes (to include a list of topics the students should be studying). Your e-mail address will not be visible to other recipients of our group e-mails and I will only use e-mail for school related communications. If you have any questions or concerns about sharing your e-mail address with me, please leave a message with a good phone number to reach you at 988-5000 (ext. 5479) and I'd be glad to talk about them with you at your convenience.

➔ Parent/Guardian E-Mail address: _____