**Earth Science Course Syllabus**

Mr. Tony Fiala

Room # 122

Conference – 3rd period

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**NOTE: SHS Open House is Thursday, August 21st, 5:30pm – 8:00pm.**

**Textbook:** Earth Science: Geology, the Environment and the Universe

**Online Access:** <http://www.glencoe.com/ose/>

 Access Code: A1C5A46237

**Course Description:**

Earth Science is an introductory study of physical properties of the earth and processes that affect the earth such as plate tectonics, weathering & erosion, orbit and revolution, as well as the effects of objects in space on Earth. Main topics studied in Earth Science are geology, meteorology, oceanography, and astronomy. Success in this course will result on a more complete understanding of Earth’s impact on humans and humans’ impact on Earth. This is the first of three required courses that will provide students with a well-rounded understanding of science.

**Course A+ Objectives:**

1. Students will be able to apply knowledge and methods to inquire into scientific processes.

2. Students will understand the structure of the earth in terms of atomic makeup, layering, heat, minerals, and rocks.

3. Students will demonstrate the ability of how the earth weathers and erodes on the surface and underground in various climates and environments.

4. Students will recognize the forces and actions involved in plate tectonics and the relationship between it and volcanoes, earthquakes, and mountain-building.

5. Students will be able to explain how the gravitational forces, due to the relative positions of a planet, moon and sun, determine the height and frequency of tides.

6. Students will explain the composition and motion of the planets in our solar system.

7. Students will read and analyze different types of weather maps and make predictions based on data.

8. Students will explain different sources of pollution and determine ways to prevent/reduce pollution.

**Material to bring to class everyday:**

Pencil (preferred) or pen

3-ring binder with loose leaf paper

Text book

Any assignments/labs for the day/week

Colored pencils (you will be directed as to when you will need them)

**Assessment**

Students will be assessed using a variety of tools including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Tests and quizzes

2. Laboratory investigations

3. Homework and in-class assignments

4. Individual and group projects/presentations

Extra credit MAY be offered through additional independent activities.

**Homework Policy**

Missing assignments or failing assignments can be replaced by an alternative assignment. See teacher for these assignments for up to 80% credit.

**Test Policy**

Any low test score (below 70%) can be retaken during AIM class for additional credit (1/2 point for each point missed). *It is the student’s responsibility to schedule time to make up tests.*

**Absentee Policy**

Absentees will have two days to turn in makeup work. Work due on date of absence must be turned in on the day you return.

Students are responsible for obtaining any missed work.

Any missed tests will be completed upon your return to school.

**Grade Calculation: Total Points**

Assignments = in-class worksheets, homework, laboratory questions

Organization = binder checks, prepared for class

Tests and quizzes

Semester exam is worth 10% of your grade

**Grade Scale:**

A = 90 – 100%

B = 80 – 89%

C = 70 – 79%

D = 60 – 69%

F = 59% or below

**Classroom rules:**

1. Respect – You are expected to respect others, your teacher and yourself. This includes listening when others are speaking without interrupting, not making fun of others, being responsible for your actions and respecting the property of others. The goal is to provide a safe environment for everyone.

2. Honesty – Cheating is NOT acceptable and will result in an automatic zero on the assignment without an opportunity to make it up.

3. Punctuality – You are expected to be in your seat when the bell rings. If you are not, you will be counted as tardy. You will receive two freebies each semester before tardies will be counted. You are also expected to remain in your seat until dismissed by the teacher.

4. Hall Passes – You will receive five a semester. Use them wisely…after you use the five, they will start counting as tardies.

5. Preparation – You are to be prepared for class every day. That means having your binder, your pencil or pen (black or blue only), text book (if directed) and all due assignments. Failure to be prepared will result in a tardy/warning.