

COURSE TITLE: The Physical Setting: Earth Science and Lab

COURSE SYLLABUS: 2009 – 2010

TEACHER: Mrs. Jean B. Hess

GENERAL OVERVIEW: Regents Earth Science looks at the whole picture of the place of the Earth in the Universe. In addition to astronomy, this course examines the interactions between the 4 spheres that make Earth:

Geosphere – structure and composition of the rocks that make this planet

Atmosphere – the air and everything that is in the air around Earth

Hydrosphere – the ice, water and water vapor in, on and around Earth

Biosphere – the life in, on and around Earth

The course allows students the opportunity to discover how human beings are dependent on and impact all four of these spheres. The Core Curriculum Guide and the NYS Syllabus are both available online at www.nyed.gov.

TEXTBOOK: EARTH SCIENCE, McDougal Littell, 2005

Each student is given a textbook and told to take it home in order to do homework.

Textbooks are available in the classroom for use during class.

MAJOR UNITS TAUGHT:

- I. Earth Dimensions
- II. Astronomy
- III. Weather and Climate
- IV. Rocks and Minerals
- V. Weathering and Erosion
- VI. Earth Structure / Plate Tectonics
- VII. Geologic History

GRADING POLICY:

Report card grades are computed by the following formula:

50% test average

20% notebook

20% homework

10% lab grade (The average lab grade that is not shown on the report card.)

Other important things to know about testing and grading are:

- In June, on the NYS Regents Earth Science Exam, students are allowed to use a sixteen page booklet titled: Earth Science Reference Tables. Students may use these tables on any quiz or test given in this course. All students are given a copy which should be in their notebook binders.
- Some but not all quizzes are announced in advance.
- Quizzes and tests are based on one or any mixture of classwork, notes, video presentations, computer based programs or homework.
- Written homework assignments and due dates are given but not always collected, unless informed otherwise.
- Students are expected to have their notebook in class every day and classwork grades are reduced if a student does not have a notebook.
- Notebooks are graded each marking period.
- Students may use their notebooks on some quizzes and tests.

LABORATORY COMPONENT:

Laboratory experience is a required part of The Physical Setting: Earth Science. In lab, students have an opportunity to observe some of the processes and some of the tools that are part of the Earth Science course. Topics and concepts include, but are not limited to, density, maps, heat transfer, minerals and weather instruments.

- a. Lab is 3 out of every 6 school days.
- b. A student must have completed 1200 minutes of lab time before the NYS Regents Exam is given. That equals 30 periods of lab. CHS schedules a student for about 90 periods of lab during the year.
- c. Lab grades are the average grade for all lab exercises conducted during the marking period. Labs are due the last day that an exercise is conducted and students must hand the completed lab to the teacher during their lab time. Late lab reports are given a grade reduction of one letter grade. The teacher does NOT look in a student’s folder for missing lab reports.
- d. In June, completed and graded labs are retained and filed for one year as required by the NYS Regents.
- e. On the report card, a lab grade appears as “S” for satisfactory or “U” for unsatisfactory. An “S” is achieved for a numeric grade average of 65 or higher for the marking period.
- f. To be eligible to take the Regents Exam in Earth Science, a student must have an “S” for all 4 marking periods.
- g. There is a NYS Regents Lab Performance Exam in late May or early June. The exam is one period long and is conducted on a regular school day. The score for this exam is 0-23 and is used to compute the final Regents Exam grade in June.

COURSE REVIEW: The content part of the course is scheduled to be completed by mid April. At that time, review begins to prepare students for the 2 NYS Regents exams given for this course. The first is the Lab Performance Test given in late May or early June. The second is the Regents Exam in late June. In January, students are asked to buy a review book (TBA) for use in class and for homework. The cost is about ten dollars.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- 1. Hard cover 3 ring binder (1 ½” size) (May be shared with other classes)
- 2. One double pocket folder with prongs(for lab)
- 3. Ample supply of lined looseleaf paper, pens, pencils
- 4. Four function calculator (larger is OK but graphing may not be used on tests)
- 5. Colored pencils (recommended)
- 6. Highlighter
- 7. Review book (title TBA) to be purchased in January.

COMMUNICATION: Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns. I will do the same. Phone messages may be left for me at the High School office in the A.M. (816-3130) or at the Elementary School office in the P.M. (816-3350). I will get back to you as soon as my schedule allows. My email is jbhess@buffaloschools.org. E mail to [jbhess](mailto:jbhess@buffaloschools.org) will NOT reach me!

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN TO ME ASAP!

Student name _____ Signature _____
 Parent/guardian _____ Signature _____
 Date _____