Earth Science Syllabus
NCHS 2019-2020

D203 Mission
To educate students to be self-directed learners, collaborative workers, complex thinkers, quality producers, and community contributors.

Course Description
In this course, students explore the interdependence of Earth systems including geologic features, weather, climate, and living organisms. Using a chronological approach, students investigate changes in the Earth and atmosphere and identify significant events that have shaped our planet within each of the major geological time periods. Students also identify the role of human activity and the management of natural resources in this NGSS-aligned course. Prerequisite: successful completion of 2 years of science.

Course Topics

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Semester 1

- Unit 1: Solar System & Early Earth
- Unit 2: Minerals, Mining, & Igneous Rocks
- Unit 3: Plate Tectonics & Volcanism

Semester 2

- Unit 4: Earthquakes & Mountain Building
- Unit 5: Metamorphic, Sedimentary Rocks
- Unit 6: Climate, Human Impact, & Weather
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Digital Viewing Options:

- Planet Earth
- How the Earth was Made
- Supervolcano
- The Lorax
- Before the Flood
- Inconvenient Truth
- Warning from the Ice
- Ted Talks/Documentaries
- Chasing Coral
- Saving the Planet Climate Change

Grading
Your course grade will reflect what you have learned, not what you have completed.

- 85% Course content grade
- 15% Final Exam

Course Content Grade

- 0% Formative work (Homework, whiteboard presentations, Canvas practice quizzes, lab completion checks)
  Formative work will be checked and given periodic feedback, but will not count towards the course grade. Students must earn 60% or higher on formatives to be considered “complete” in gradebook.

- 100% Summative work (quizzes, labs, lab practicals, tests and projects)
  All assessments must be completed in a 50-minute period or the time provided by the teacher (exception: IEP/ 504).

Grading Disbursement

- A ⇒ 89.5-100 %
- B ⇒ 79.5-89.4 %
- C ⇒ 69.5-79.4 %
- D ⇒ 59.5-69.4 %
- F ⇒ below 59.5%
Academic Integrity

Students will be expected to submit only original work and follow the academic integrity policy outlined in the student handbook.

Test Correction Policy

- Students will be provided an opportunity to complete test corrections in class on unit exams. Through test corrections, students will earn up to half credit back on each question.
- These corrections must be completed on the day provided in class or within one week of that day. Specific instructions will be provided by your teacher.
- Test correction points will be awarded ONLY if student has all summative and formative work completed for the given unit. Students must earn 60% or higher on formatives to be considered “complete” in gradebook.

Unit Exam Grade Replacement (Retake) Policy

- Students are allowed to replace the grade of any and all unit test scores (and ONLY unit test scores) with their score from the related section of the final exam. (Lab practicals and projects are NOT unit tests.)
- The score earned from the relevant section of the final exam will replace the unit test score up to 100%.
- Unit exam scores will only be replaced if the student has all summative and formative work completed for the given unit. This includes the Target Sheet filled in relevantly and encompasses all of the target.
- All formative and summative work for each unit must be completed by the date specified by your teacher, prior to answers being given or end of unit to be eligible for a grade replacement from the fall final exam.

Late Policy for Summative Work

- Assignments are due at the start of the class period. If an assignment is not ready to be turned in when you walk into the room, it is considered late. All late assignments will be capped at 90% once turned in.
- Because all assignments are intended to benefit your learning and overall class success, you are strongly encouraged to complete all work prior to the unit test.

Communication

- Teachers make every effort to respond to emails and phone calls within 48 hours during the workweek.
- The best way to communicate with teachers is through email; however, if you haven’t received a response in 48 hours, please resend the email or call their voicemail. Your email may have gone into the spam folder.
- If you are struggling in class, PLEASE seek help from your teacher as soon as possible (BEFORE the test).

Parents and Guardians – we need your help please!

- Parents should actively check Infinite Campus for their students’ grade.
  - The grades on Infinite Campus will be accurate at the monthly progress report dates.
  - Infinite Campus is a communication tool until the final semester grade is posted.
- Please ask your son/daughter about their school work. Please ask them for access to their Canvas account.
- Check with your individual teacher for additional classroom information.