

# Mr. Acree's Earth Science Syllabus

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**Teacher's Contact information:** Phone: 480-987-5504 Email: [dacree@qcusd.org](mailto:dacree@qcusd.org) Prep Hour: One Room: B103  
**Web Site:** [www.myrc.org/earth.htm](http://www.myrc.org/earth.htm)

**Internet and Computer Based Textbook:** Earth Science, Nancy Spaulding and Samuel Namowitz, McDougal Littell Inc., 2005. Course textbooks will be provided in the classroom.

**Course Materials:** 1. Pencils and/or pens 2. **New** 100+ page spiral notebook per semester 3. Student planner  
4. Calculator is recommended (the **CASIO fx-260SOLAR FRACTION** is preferred)

## Course Objectives:

The objective of the Earth Science course is to learn and understand the dynamics that make up the Earth to have a better understanding of the Earth's geological history and makeup, what controls and regulates the weather, and the science that have lead to discoveries of the universe.

**Course Description:** Earth Science is an in-depth study of geology, meteorology, and astronomy. This includes:

Origin of the Earth	Weather patterns	Structure of the Sun/Stars
Geochemical cycles	Formation of thunderstorms	The "Big Bang" Theory
Environmental concerns	Lighting	The Planets
Cause of earthquakes	Dynamics of wind	Galaxies
Plate tectonics and volcanism	Formation of the Solar System	History of Astronomy

## Grading:

90 - 100 = A **Semester grades** are calculated from the student's test and quiz scores, lab reports, homework, projects, bell work, participation points, and reports. Grades are based on cumulative points per quarter and calculated into the quarter and semester grade by **Snapgrades**.  
80 - 89 = B  
70 - 79 = C  
60 - 69 = D  
0 - 59 = F First Qtr 40% Grade + Second Qtr 40% Grade + Semester Exam 20% Grade = Semester Grade

A positive attitude towards learning is needed to succeed in high school. The best way to avoid a low grade is to study, do **all** the work and turn it in on time. No extra credit points are provided. I do give bonus points based on performance to students that gets an A, (90% or above) on tests or quizzes. Bonus points are accumulated and applied at end of the quarter.

## Homework and Class Work Policy:

Homework is written on the white board at the front of the class. Students are responsible to check and write down the homework assignments, then complete the work, and turn it in on the due date. Homework or class work is due at the beginning of class or when the teacher asks for it. Incomplete homework being done in class will be considered late.

## Makeup Work:

It is the responsibility of students to inquire what they have missed in class. Students with an **excused absence** will be given the number of days absent, plus one day to make up the assignments. Write **ABSENT** in large, bold letters and the date/s you were absent at the top of the paper. Otherwise, it will be marked as a late assignment. Students with an **unexcused absence** are accountable for missed work and may not receive credit for missed assignments. Turn in makeup work by placing inside the **White Makeup Work Box**. Any makeup work not placed in the Makeup Work Box will be considered not turned in and graded zero.

## Late Work:

Any assignments that are not turned in or are past the excused absence allowance for makeup work will be determined late and will automatically be given a zero, and **there is no zero point recovery**.

## Movie/Film Policy:

Only preapproved videos of good quality will be shown that follow the curriculum of the Arizona State Standards for Earth Science.

## Tests and Quizzes:

Tests and quizzes can be scheduled or unscheduled. It is the responsibility of each student to learn the topics of Earth Science and be ready and prepared at any time to take a scheduled or unscheduled test or quiz. Any information given in class can be tested on.

## Grades:

Assignments completed and turned in on time will receive appropriate credit when graded. Students need to have the discipline to do the best job they can with all of their work. Just getting a "D" to pass shows little effort was applied. Good grades (A or B) are important. The way to get an A or B is to study, pay attention in class, avoid talking out of turn, don't goof off, and be willing to work. It is the responsibility of the student to take on an active part of their learning of Earth Science.

At each quarter's four week midpoint, if a student's grade is a D or F, the student's parents or guardian will receive a **D or F Quarter Report and Snapgrade Grade Report** informing parents of their student's low Earth Science grade. Seniors who are failing at the quarter's four week midpoint

will also receive a **Senior Failing Notice**. At any time parents may receive a phone call from the teacher on their student's classroom behavior, electronic use in the classroom, or to discuss low grades.

#### **Electronic Devices:**

Electronic devices used by students such as cell phones, iPods, mp3 players, CD players, miniature radios, cameras, and laser pens are a big distraction and are not to be used in class. Students are to silence or turn off, stop use, and put away all electronic devices before class starts by the final bell. Parents, if there is an emergency, please call the school's front Office and they will call me. If you want to communicate with your student, please do so between classes or during the student's lunch time. If the teacher sees any electronic device being used or out on top of the desk, whether it is on or off, it will be confiscated. Parents will be called, a Referral written, and it will be taken to the Office at the end of sixth period. Students, put your backpacks on the floor and under your desk, no exceptions. Having a backpack on top of your desk or on your lap will automatically be assumed you are monitoring your cell phone, and will be asked to zip up and put backpack on the floor. Students are responsible to monitor their possessions, all electronic devices are targets for theft, leave them home! Ask the teacher first before turning off the cell phone in class.

#### **Food and water in class:**

No food in the classroom. If a student/s is seen eating in class, teacher will confiscate the food and it is thrown away. If student/s does not relinquish food or non-water products, parents may be called. The classroom is not a cafeteria. Only water in clear, capped, plastic bottles are allowed. No cans, glass or open lid containers. Bring or purchase bottled water before class begins.

#### **Restroom Breaks:**

It is the student's responsibility to go to the restroom between classes and be in the classroom before the final bell. If late to class, student will go to SWEEP. Any restroom use during class time is under the grace of the teacher. No restroom breaks 10 minutes after class starts and before class ends. Any food or liquid purchased during a restroom break will be confiscated. Cell phones and backpacks are not to be taken to the restroom. Leave with teacher to avoid theft.

#### **Cosmetic use in class:**

At no time can students apply cosmetics or do any personal beautification during class. If it occurs, the cosmetic items may be confiscated and if the distraction is repetitive, a phone call will be made to the student's parents.

#### **Assigned Seating:**

All students are assigned a seat in class for attendance and for classroom management. If a student is not in their assigned seat, they risk being counted absent from class on that day. It is expected of students to stay in their assigned seats at all times and to ask for permission if they need to get up during class. Any student can be moved to a different seat temporarily or permanently at any time under the decision of the teacher.

#### **Additional Classroom Rules and Guidelines:**

1. The school's ID badge must be displayed at all times in class. Remove hats, caps, or head wear when entering classroom.
2. Be in your seat when the bell rings and be working on the bell-work. Write down homework assignments.
3. At no time are students allowed to use or handle computer/s, overhead and video projectors and any sound equipment.
4. It is the responsibility of each student to bring their science notebook and a pen or pencil to class each day.
5. Be respectful of yourself, your peers, your teachers and school property.
6. For all Fire Drills and Lock Downs, all students must follow procedures and orders given, and are to return back to the classroom so attendance can be retaken after the Fire Drill.
7. Keep feet, hands, objects, and comments to yourself. Put backpacks under your desk, keep aisles clear.
8. Use appropriate language. NO OBSCENITY, DEROGATORY SLANG WORDS, PUT-DOWNS OR CLOWNING. **Be respectful!**
9. Participate and make appropriate contributions to class discussions. Raise your hand to answer or ask questions.
10. Leave no trace of your impact on the classroom. Clean up after yourself.
11. If you believe you are being bullied in class, promptly report it to the teacher.
12. At no time are students allowed in teacher's desk, closet, phone or work desk unless exclusive permission given.
13. Follow the QCHS Dress Code, if you do not you will be carded, sent to office, and it will be documented.

# Course Syllabus and Lab Safety Contract Acknowledgement

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I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read, understand, and agree to the **Earth Science Syllabus**, and understand each of the **Earth Science Lab Safety Contract** rules in Mr. Acree's Earth Science class. I agree to follow them to ensure not only my own safety, but also the safety of my classmates. I understand that if I do not follow all the rules and safety precautions, I will receive a zero for the activity and will be removed from the lab. Ten points if this syllabus acknowledgement is filled out, signed and returned by August 3, 2009.

**Parent or guardian**, please tell your student that you expect them to follow the classroom/lab and school rules, and behave in appropriate manner in class and during a lab.

No student will be permitted to perform lab experiments unless this contract is signed by both student and parent/guardian and is on file with the teacher. Parents, your signature indicates that you have read, understand, filled out and answered all questions, and agree to this contract.

*Student Name* \_\_\_\_\_ *Period* \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent/Guardian Name* \_\_\_\_\_

*Home Phone* \_\_\_\_\_ *Parent's Daytime/Cell/Work Phone* \_\_\_\_\_

*Does student have access to a functioning computer at home? Yes or No*

*Does student have access to a functioning computer **printer** at home? Yes or No*

*Does student have access to a high-speed Internet access at home? Yes or No*

*Is it ok to have your student's work, quizzes, and tests graded in class by another student if it is ok with your student? Yes or No*

*Student Signature* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date* \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent/Guardian Signature* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date* \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent/Guardian Email* \_\_\_\_\_