

Important Academic Information for Student Success in Earth Science

Parents, high school is a place that is both fun and challenging for all students, especially incoming freshmen. High school is designed to prepare students to enter the work world and/or college with the knowledge and skills to be successful. For students to be ready, it is very important to do well in high school by becoming an active participant in their learning process. By this I mean, students must have a positive attitude to learn, focus in class to learn what the lesson is about, read the required chapters, and study. To help parents' guild their student in this process, I have created this information sheet on class work and homework policies that I have in my classroom. By informing parents and students to these policies, parents can direct their student to follow these policies to maximize the learning process and the understanding of Earth Science.

Bell Work

The goal of Bell Work is to ask review questions from the previous day/s class topic and notes. Bell Work is given each class day by displaying the three or more question on the smart board for at least five to eight minutes at the start of class. Students write the questions and answer them from what the student knows or found in their Earth Science Notebook.

Bell Work Policies:

- As soon students enter the classroom they can start writing down the day's Bell Work questions on to a sheet of paper labeled for that week's bell work questions. Once class starts students will have an allotted amount time to find and write the questions.
- Students must write each question displayed, not just the answer.
- At the end of the allotted time, the teacher will start the answering process by either selecting a student in the class or by students raising their hands.
- If a student gives the correct answer, the student gets a bonus point/s. Students then can correct their answer if wrong or write it down.
- If a selected student gives the answer, "I don't know." or "I didn't do it." the lack of trying comment is noted.
- The goal is to refresh the previous day/s lesson topic and for subject review.
- At the end of the Bell Work for the day all students should have wrote all the questions with correct answers.
- At the end of the week, usually Friday, the week's Bell Work is called for. To get a point for each Bell Work question, students **MUST** write each question with correct answer.
- Bonus points for doing the Bell Work are accumulated for the quarter.
- Each day's Bell Work questions are kept in the Blue Book at front of the class for students who were absent and need to catch up.

Homework Policies:

- As indicated on the Homework Schedule, each week's homework assignment is given on Monday or the first work day of the week. The teacher writes and reviews the week's schedule on the white board each Monday.
- Also included on the Homework Schedule and on the white board is the due date for the week's homework which is Friday, unless otherwise stated.
- Homework is always for the current textbook chapter. Included is the homework's title, page/s found, given and due date, number of questions to do and instructions.
- To get a point for a homework answer, the student **must** write the complete question, **must** write the complete correct answer, **with the letter**, see example.
Example: 5. Name the molten rock that is on top of the ground?
B. Lava that comes out of a volcano.
- All homework is due on Friday which is four (4) days after it was given on Monday, unless otherwise stated. With the Homework Schedule, students can start the next week's homework early before the scheduled start day to get it done early and wait to turn in on due date.
- If a student is ill or out of school for a while, with the Homework Schedule the student can keep up with the week's topic and homework and not get behind.

Bell Work & Homework Due Days Policies:

- Bell Work and homework is always due on Friday of each week, unless otherwise stated.
- If a student does not turn in their Bell Work and homework on due date, is considered **late** and will automatically be given a zero (0) **with no point recovery**.
- After all of the Bell Work and homework has been collected, while the class is engaged on a educational task, both the Bell Work and homework is checked to see if any students **did not** turn a Bell Work and/or homework in on due date.

- During class each student is visited and asked why the Bell Work and/or homework were not turned in on the due date. The student is then asked to initial on the Due Date Check sheet that they acknowledge they did not turn it in on the due date.
- Please note, if a student has excused absent on the due date, they has the required time to make it up.
- For both Bell Work and homework student must write the question with correct answer, (homework must also have answer letter with written answer and question). Not doing so will mean the question is wrong and no point.

Makeup Policies:

- The makeup policy found in the Student Handbook is always followed.
- If a student has an excused absence and is turning in their work, they **must** put it in the locked White Makeup Box at the front of the class. Not doing so means the makeup was not turned in correctly. By mandating all students putting their excused absence makeup work in the locked White Makeup Box makes sure the makeup work gets put where it won't get lost or stolen.
- There is no guarantee that late unexcused absence Bell Work and homework will be graded and points given.

Chapter Reading:

- Students need to read the chapters in the Earth Science textbook for the week as stated on the Homework Schedule. By reading the chapter at the start of the week's curriculum's topic, students provide themselves a basic understanding of the chapter. By having some understanding by reading provides students a basic knowledge of the lesson's content.

Earth Science Notebook:

- All students are required to obtain and use a 150 plus page spiral notebook to write class notes, homework, and Bell Work in. Only a spiral notebook will be accepted, they are easy for all students to obtain at a low cost and have enough pages to last the semester, (if students can obtain a 200 page spiral notebook, which is best choice).
- By following the instructions to build an Earth Science notebook and taking good notes, students increase the possibility of developing good classroom habits and a great source to study from. On a random chosen day once each quarter, students' Earth Science Notebooks are gathered and graded based on the construction outlined in Earth Science Notebook Grading Rubric.
- So, it is important for each student to build their Earth Science Notebook correctly, take notes, do the drawings, and record the underlined chapters in the Table of Contents to a good grade.

Classroom Behavior:

- For each student to maximize their learning and understanding of Earth Science, classroom behavior is extremely important.
- When a student disrupts the learning process of themselves or others, it has negative effect.
- Communicating (talking and listening) in class to other students disrupts the lesson and causes the teacher to stop the learning process, redirect and correct the disruptive student/s and learning time is lost.
- High school is the only time when students can learn where there is no direct cost.
- Cell phone use in class kills the learning process. Students spend more time trying to design sly, skillful ways to monitor and use their cell phone in class are missing out on the lesson. If the same amount to interest and effort was put to hearing and learning the lesson, grades would be better.
- If a student repeatedly disrupts the learning process, they will first be asked to stop and refocus. If a student continues to disrupt, the student may be moved to a different seat or removed to another class to gain order in the classroom. Parents maybe called about the disruptive classroom behavior.

Studying:

- Throughout a student's time in high school studying is needed and required if the student wants an A or B in a class. This studying process is on-going. Just studying the night before a test provides little results.
- By paying attention in class and focused on the lesson, reading the textbook and reviewing notes helps a student to be prepared. Learn in an active process, students don't learn by osmosis. By paying attention, reading, reviewing, working for an A or B with the attitude to learn is what matters. By having a good attitude and be willing to work for a good grade are the necessary steps to be successful in class, in high school, and in live.
- High school is the time and place to start. By not doing so can causes lack a lack in performance, poor grades, anxiety, and lost time. Start right. Students must be willing to take on the job of self education by wanting to do the best they can in class.

Earth Science Curriculum:

- The Earth Science class curriculum follows the State of Arizona standards for Earth Science.
- To teach across the curriculum, when applicable, math & reading/writing will be applied. Earth Science is full of human history, (military, political, religious, economic, environmental, and scientific) and will be touched on to help explain the “how and why” that historical topic had an impact on Earth Science.

Tests and Quizzes:

- 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.
- In the Homework Schedule there is a textbook chapter study guide is posted for each test to help in the studying for the upcoming chapter test. An additional test study guide may also be given. There will always be a study guide for Semester Finals.
- For all tests and quizzes there will be bonus points, (30 to 40 percent of the test/quiz score) given to students that study and get an A grade on the test or quiz. These bonus points are based on performance – focus in class, work, study, and prepare to get an A test/quiz grade.

Low Grade Notices:

- To help keep parents informed on an ongoing basis about their student’s grades, every two weeks a **Low Grade Notice** will be sent home to inform parents of their student’s D or F grade in class.
- The Low Grade Notice will include student’s class grade and classroom behavioral information. The Low Grade Notice will be sent home with student to have both parent/s and student to review and be signed and dated together and promptly returned to teacher by student. Email follow up may apply.
- **Progress Reports** at the four week point during the semester will also be mailed home as well.

Lab Policies:

- During a lab, students must follow all lab safety procedures and instructions at all times during the lab. If a student or students gets involved in horseplay, do unsafe acts, quarrel, not stay with their assigned lab group, disrupt other students during the lab may be removed from the lab and sent to another class or receive a zero for the lab.
- Before any student can participate in a lab, they must first pass the Lab Safety Test with a 100 percent score. During a lab, all students must wear closed toe shoes for safety; if not they will get alternate work and will not be allowed to participate with another teacher during the lab.
- Students who wear glasses, contacts, or hearing aids must wear them for safety. If not, will not be allowed to participate and they will get alternate work during the lab.