

Earth Science Syllabus

Teacher Name: Mr. Acree

Teacher Contact information: **Phone:** 480-987-5504 **Email:** dacree@qcusd.org **Prep Hour:** One
Room: B103 **Web Site:** www.myrc.org/earth.htm

Textbook: **Earth Science**, Nancy Spaulding and Samuel Namowitz, McDougal Littell Inc., 2005.

Course Materials: 1. Pencils and/or pens 2. 100+ page spiral notebook
3. Student planner 4. Calculator

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 space.

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 System:

100% - 90% = A **Semester grades** are calculated from the student's test scores, quizzes, lab reports, homework, projects and presentations. Grades are based on cumulative points per quarter and calculated into a percentage.
80% - 89% = B
70% - 79% = C
60% - 69% = D
Below 60% = F First Qtr Grade = 40% + Second Qtr Grade = 40% + Final Exam = 20%

No extra credit is provided. The best way to avoid a low grade is to have a positive attitude towards learning, focus in class, study and do the work. I do give bonus points for extra effort for extra effort. If a student gets an A, (90% or above) on a test or quiz they will get 5 bonus points based on doing a good job. Bonus points are accumulated and applied to low grades at end of the quarter.

Late Work Policy: Homework is written on the white board which is visible to the entire class. It is also posted on the teacher's Web site on the date given. Students are responsible to check and write down the homework assignment in their Student Planner where it won't be lost and/or forgotten.

Homework is due at the beginning of class or when asked. Late homework is when a student does not turn in an assignment when requested. Incomplete homework being done in class will be considered late. Late homework will automatically lose half of the total point value before it is graded. Failure to turn in homework will cause a zero to be given and there is no recovery.

If a student was absent on the day the homework was due, time will be given as stated in the Student Planner to turn it in later without a late point loss. If the student is late again after the grace time is given, late work rules will be applied.

Absences:

Students will be given the opportunity as outlined in Student Planner to make-up work due to an excused absence to complete the work they missed. Write **ABSENT** and the date/s you were absent at the top of the paper. Otherwise, it will be marked as a late assignment.

Classroom Management Plan:

1. Wear your school's ID badge at all times. Remove hats when entering the classroom.
2. Cell phones and all electronics are not allowed to be used in class!
3. It is the responsibility of each student to go to the restroom **before** class.
4. Be in your seat when the bell rings and be working on the warm-ups and copy the homework into your planner.
5. No food in the classroom or lab. Only clear, capped plastic bottles of water.
6. Raise your hand to answer or ask responsible questions.
7. Bring necessary materials to class and be ready to learn.
8. Come to class prepared to listen to and follow instructions to learn.
9. Be respectful of yourself, your peers, your teachers and school property.
10. Turn in homework on time.
11. 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.
12. Keep feet, hands, objects, comments to yourself.
13. Use appropriate language. **NO SWEARING, DEROGATORY SLANG WORDS, PUT-DOWNS OR CLOWNING. Be respectful!**
14. Participate and make appropriate contributions to classroom discussions.
15. Leave no trace of your impact on the classroom. Clean up after yourself.
16. Follow all school rules and procedures as described in the Student handbook.

Movie/Film Policy: Only preapproved, G rated videos will be shown that follows the curriculum of the Arizona State Standards for Earth Science.

Other: I expect excellence in everything students do in my class. Assignments that are 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 to students. The way to get an A or B is to study, pay attention in class, don't talk, don't goof off, and be willing to work. It is important for each student to know that they are responsible to learn, listen, study, and work in order to become successful at Queen Creek High School. High school is college prep.

If a student's grade falls to a low D level or F, the student's parents or guardian will receive a phone call from me to inform of the grade and discuss appropriate actions while there is still time to improve the grade.

Success in Earth Science starts with proper classroom behavior. Inappropriate behavior such as talking during the lesson, using any electronic devices in class, and any unwanted noise and actions causes classroom disruptions. It is very important for parents to talk to their student and for students to understand appropriate classroom behavior.

Turn off your cell phones, put them away, and put your backpacks on the floor! If there is an emergency, parents can call the school's front Office and they will call me. Doing so will not disrupt the class. If you use your cell phone or any electronic device in class for any reason it will be confiscated and taken to the Office.

Course Syllabus and Lab Safety Contract Acknowledgement

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 that I will receive a zero for the activity and will be removed from the lab. Ten points if this page is filled out, signed and returned by 08/01/08.

Parent/Guardian, please read through the list of safety rules. 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. Your signature indicates that you have read and understand this contract.

Student Name _____ *Period* _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Home Phone _____ *Daytime/Cell/Work Phone* _____

Does student have Internet access at home? Yes or No

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

Student Signature _____ *Date* _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ *Date* _____

Parent/Guardian Email _____