

**Lancaster High School 2003-04****Teacher:** Mr. Pat Hayhurst, **Room:** 209**Web site:** <http://www.lnhs.org/hayhurst> **Email:** phayhurst@avhsd.org**Course Description**

Earth Science is a course that surveys areas of Geology (historical and physical), Astronomy, Meteorology, Chemistry and Physics. This course is intended to meet the State and District requirement for one year of physical science. The students gain an understanding of the facts and principles of physical science and learn the scientific method. Laboratory demonstrations/experiments, problem-solving techniques, and scientific method are stressed.

Rationale

This course is intended to provide students with a global orientation to the physical sciences. Each of the topics is presented with references from a related earth science concept. Students complete extra labs and assignments that focus on the processes of science and the interrelationships between atmosphere, lithosphere and hydrosphere as interpreted in the principles of chemistry and physics. Students completing this course would intend to complete four years of laboratory-based science. This course will meet the state's Earth Science Content Standards and students enrolled in this course will take the Earth Science augmented portion of the California Standards Test.

Teacher Responsibilities

My job is to be your teacher; so therefore, it is my responsibility to teach **you**. If you are having trouble with a topic in the class, you can expect that I will make time to give you extra instruction; all you have to do is ask me. You can also expect me to have a positive attitude and enthusiasm for this class. It is my job to do my best to make the class as interesting as possible. I will also do my best to motivate you by any means necessary. My job also includes that I keep order in the classroom, therefore I will use any form of discipline I feel is necessary in order to maintain an environment of learning.

Student Responsibilities and Requirements

I want all of my students to understand that the teacher is only one part of the education process. I can teach, but if you are not motivated to learn, you won't. The student's responsibility is to learn. In addition to that, **your grade is your responsibility.** You will be held accountable to keep track of your own work and to turn in your work when it is due. If you are having problems with a particular subject, it is also your responsibility to come and see me personally for extra instruction. You are also responsible for your **own behavior.**

TEXT BOOK

The text we will use for this course is Earth Science; Geology, the Environment and the Universe by Glencoe/McGraw-Hill. This book will be assigned to you and you will be required to complete reading and study assignments out of it. This book will keep it at home; we will have a set for you to use in the classroom while you are here.

NOTEBOOK

Each student will be required to keep a single subject notebook. I suggest that you use a three-ringed binder, either 3/4" or 1" and start with at least 100 sheets of paper. In this notebook you will be required to keep all of your homework, notes, quizzes, lab activity sheets and tests. **You**

are required to have your notebook with you in class everyday. You should only have work for this class in your notebook, and you should keep science work only in this notebook. It is important to keep a good notebook and take good notes because all tests will be open notebook style. Additionally, I spot-check notebooks for completion of all assignments and will stamp all complete work. If you keep a good notebook you will undoubtedly do well in this class.

ASSIGNMENT SHEETS

For each unit you will receive a list of the unit objectives along with an assignment sheet for each chapter of the book. These sheets will be kept in your notebook all semester long. Other than lab work you will know all of your assignments in advance and there will be no excuse for late assignments. If you turn in something **late** you can only receive **half credit** for it. A parent signature is required on your assignment sheet before you turn it in. Three times per chapter we will also have an equipment check to see if you have your pen/pencil, paper, calculator and notebook with you and ready to go that day. Points will be recorded on your assignment sheet.

ABSENCES and MAKE-UP WORK

Due to the nature of this class, it is recommended that you make every attempt to be in class each day the class meets. If you are absent, it is **your responsibility** to get your make-up work for the days you were absent, not mine. If you are absent on a day when an assignment is due, the next time you are present you will be required to turn in the assignment at the beginning of the period in order to receive full credit. If you miss a test or a quiz, you will be required to take the test/quiz the next day you return. There will be some assignments and participation points that can't be made up; that is why it is in your best interest to be in class everyday. If you fail to turn in an assignment on its due date you may turn it in on the next class day for half credit.

EXTRA CREDIT

Extra credit assignments are not required. Extra credit will be in the form of a few small point assignments and will be included on the assignment sheet. These will be smaller assignments worth typically five points each. I will occasionally award extra credit points for donating supplies not afforded to us in the regular setting. I also reserve the right to give extra credit points for any activity I deem necessary in order to motivate students or generate school spirit.

Grading Policy and Procedure

The percentage breakdown for the assignment of letter grades will be as follows: 100-90 = A, 89-80 = B, 79-70 = C, 69-60 = D, 59 and below = F. I also reserve the right to curve this grade scale at any time I feel it is necessary. 40% of the semester grade comes from the first quarter, 40% from the second quarter and 20% from the final exam.

Benchmark Tests will be given at the end of each unit. Benchmark Tests will make up 40% of the student's final grade. Notebook work and Assignment Sheets will be worth 40% of the final grade; extra credit will be included in this portion of the grade. Lab assignments collaboratively will be worth 20% of the final grade. You can check your grade online at my web site.