

Course Name: Life Science/Physical Science **Level:** CCP **Points:** 5
Teacher Name: Meghann Murray

Course Description: This course provides all students a beginning knowledge of physical, earth and life sciences and offers insight into the means by which scientific knowledge is acquired. This introductory course is designed to serve as a foundation for students taking later courses in biology, chemistry, and physics. Fundamental principles of science emphasized in this class include the scientific method, metrics, introductory chemistry, structure of matter, how matter changes, the role of energy in chemical and physical changes, ecology and evolution. Experiments and activities are incorporated to teach scientific inquiry methods and critical thinking skills in an active and meaningful way. Opportunities are available for students to conduct a research project on a topic of their choice. Laboratory, demonstrations and/or hands-on activities will be conducted frequently throughout the course.

Texts/Instructional Materials:

Course textbook - Tarbuck, Edward J., et al. *Prentice Hall Earth Science*. Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2006.

Course website - msmurraybiology.weebly.com.

Required materials -

- 3-Ring Binder with 5 sections: Warm-ups; Notes; Classwork & Labs; Homework; and Tests & Quizzes
- Lined paper
- Pencil or Pen

Topics of Study:

Introduction to science

- Inquiry & Scientific Method
- Metric System
- Data analysis, graphing

Matter

- Introduction to biochemistry
- Minerals

Rocks

- Types of Rocks
- Rock Cycle
- Weathering and Erosion

Earth's Forces

- Earth's Layers
- Earthquakes
- Plate Tectonics
- Oceanography

Earth's Resources

- Energy & Mineral Resources
- Renewable Energy

Ecology

- Levels of Organization
- Energy in an ecosystem
- Nutrient Cycles
- Populations & Biodiversity
- Classification

Evolution

- Darwin & Natural Selection
- Evidence of Evolution
- Speciation
- History of Life

Assignments:

There will be daily classwork assignments and homework will be assigned both from the textbook and in class multiple times a week.

Grading Policy: Grades will be based on a variety of assessment methods. Tests will be given at the end of each unit and at least two quizzes will be given each term. There will be a midterm exam at the end of the 2nd Quarter and a final exam at the end of the 4th Quarter; each of these will comprise 20% of the grade for those quarters.

Grades will be broken down as follows:

<u>Assessment</u>	<u>1st/3rd Quarter</u>	<u>2nd/4th Quarter</u>
Classwork/Labs/Projects	35%	28%
Homework	25%	20%
Tests & Quizzes	30%	24%
Class Participation	10%	8%
Midterm/Final Exam	0%	20%

Homework Policy:

In order to receive full credit, homework assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Homework is graded on a, check plus (√+), check * (√*), check (√), check minus (√-), late (L), very late (VL) and zero (0) scale. Homework grades will be based on correctness as well as completion. Please see homework grading sheet for a more detailed explanation. Homework will not be accepted once a test is given on the subject.

Make-Up Work:

Students must speak with the teacher on the first day back after an absence to discuss make-up work and its due date. Students who are absent on the day of a test/quiz/project should be prepared to take the test/turn in the project on the day of their return. Quizzes and tests must be made up on students' own time (i.e. before/after school), **not** during class. Generally, students will have 3 days to make up work, though this will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Late Classwork Policy:

In order to receive full credit, work must be turned in by the **end of the period** (unless otherwise discussed). As with homework assignments, for each day classwork is late, the grade will decrease by one increment. Classwork will not be accepted once a test is given on the subject.

Cell Phone Policy: please see attached cell phone policy.

Discipline/3-Strike Policy:

It is expected that student behavior will reflect positively on the student. Students should **be respectful** of themselves, the teacher and fellow classmates, as well as the classroom.

1. **Warning** – students who are disrespectful, disruptive or using their phones in class will be given a warning.
2. **Detention** – if a student has received a warning but continues to be disruptive, they must serve an afterschool detention with me. Students that miss detention will be referred to the dean.
3. **Dean** – if a student has received a warning, as well as a detention but continues to be disruptive, they will be sent to their dean.

Students are expected to check ASPEN on a regular basis - grades will be updated frequently.

Please complete the portion below. DO NOT REMOVE THIS PORTION OF THE SYLLABUS – KEEP IT AT THE FRONT OF YOUR BINDER!

I, parent/guardian of _____, understand the content and expectations associated with the course described in this course contract/syllabus.

Name/Signature _____ Date _____

I, the student enrolled in the course described in this course contract/syllabus, understand what I can expect and what is expected of me, in this course.

Name/Signature _____ Date _____