



Laingsburg Middle School
Laingsburg, MI

Eighth Grade Earth Science – Syllabus

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Conference Period: 2nd Hour

Textbook: Holt, Earth Science

Goals of Course:

- The learner will develop and understanding of the scientific method and use it throughout the year.
- The learner will actively participate in scientific activities to better understand scientific concepts presented.
- The learner will develop methods to think scientifically in order to solve problems.

Requirements:

- Students will need
 - 1 composition notebook (50-100 pages)
 - 1” binder for all science assignments and papers
 - pens/pencils
 - 2-3 highlighters
 - 12 pack colored pencils
 - 4-5 glue sticks
 - pencil pouch/container to hold all materials

These materials will be provided if a student can not bring his or her own materials. Students will occasionally be asked to bring other optional supplies.

- All students are required to come to class each day prepared to learn. This includes bringing all supplies, having assignments completed, and participating in daily lessons/activities.

Resources:

- Student Planner
- Interactive Science Notebook
- Mrs. Malaski’s website: <http://mrsmalaskilms.weebly.com>
- Holt, Earth Science book
- PowerSchool (to view grades/missing assignments online)
- Access to Chromebooks/lpads
- Teacher is available by appointment for additional help
- Various helpful websites will be posted when applicable on classroom website

Grading Policy:

Grade Calculations		
Marking period (4 per year)	30% Practice	70% Assessments
Semester 1 Grade	40% marking period 1 grade 40% marking period 2 grade	20% Final Exam
Semester 2 grade	40% marking period 3 grade 40% marking period 4 grade	20% Final Exam

Practice

Assignments and lab activities that are used to help introduce or begin to reinforce concepts will be considered “practice”. These will be graded differently than assessments and are a key component in developing understanding and mastery of the Earth Science content of this course. Students are required to complete all practice activities assigned in this course.

Assessments

At various points throughout the unit, students will be given different forms of assessment to gauge their understanding of particular topics being studied. These assessments will vary in format and students are expected to complete all assessment activities assigned in this course.

Final Exam

A final exam will be given at the end of each semester. These tests will use various assessment methods to ensure students understand the concepts explored throughout the semester. All students are required to complete both final exams for this course. *See scale at end of grading section.*

Late Policy

If an assignment is not turned in the day it is due, students will have an additional day to complete the assignment for a grade reduced by 10%. If he or she does not bring back the completed assignment the next day, it can still be completed, but only for 50% credit.

LMS Grading Scale

<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Percent</i>
A	95+	C	73-76
A-	90-94	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	E	0-59

Behavioral Expectations:

- Students should be respectful to themselves, other students, teachers, administrators, other staff and school property at all times.
- Students should be in their seats with all required daily supplies when the bell rings.
- Students should follow directions at all times, especially when working in the science lab.
- When someone else is speaking, students should listen respectfully.
- When a guest teacher is present in the room, students will act in a respectful manner, follow directions, and be on their absolute best behavior.
- This classroom is a bully free zone. No bullying, taunting, teasing will be tolerated at any time, for any reason.

Consequences for Misbehavior:

First Offense	Warning
Second Offense	2 minutes after class
Third Offense	Parent Contact
Fourth Offense	Referral to Principal

Helpful Hints:

If a student needs extra help in science, please feel free to contact me by phone or email. The best way to reach me is through email, but I do check my voicemail regularly.

Be sure to check my website for links to many of the worksheets given out in class. Also, if your student forgot to write down his or her assignments, please go to the online assignment calendar at <http://mrsmalaskilms.weebly.com>.

Course Outline:

The following units will be taught throughout the course of the year. The order will vary depending on student understanding of prerequisites and prior knowledge.

- Layers of the Earth & Convection
- Plate Tectonics, Weathering & Erosion
- Carbon Cycle
- Earths Systems & Human Life
- Climate Change
- The Sun and Other Stars
- Big Bang Theory
- Cosmology and Earth's Place in the Universe
- Age of the Earth and rocks
- Human Impacts on the Earth
- Evidence of Climate Change
- Management of natural resources and reducing impacts of humans

Specific information about each unit is available at the Next Generation Science Standards website at <http://www.nextgenscience.org/>. This document explains the required curriculum for high school credit in Earth Science.