

## Earth Science Orientation

### Mr. Gavin/Golden Valley High School

This course orientation has been prepared to communicate the expectations, course content, course requirements, policies, and other information that will give you the opportunity to achieve and have a positive learning experience. Please read it carefully, learn it, and share it with your parents. If you do not understand, or have a question about any part of this communication please ask for clarification.

#### 1. Course Introduction

This course studies Earth Science while addressing topics of current interest to society. This program instructs specific topics using activity and inquiry based laboratories, occupational settings and job profiles, role models, videos, research into current news, and traditional classroom instruction including homework and tests. This program develops a science base of education and helps students to use scientific principals while developing higher-level thinking skills.

#### 2. Course Outline

We will cover the standards for Earth Science as outlined by the State of California. These standards can be found on the internet at my website: [www.weathernut.com](http://www.weathernut.com).

All of the Units, listed below, in the textbook will be covered in this class.

1st Semester	2nd Semester
Rocks	Climate and Climate Change
Plate Tectonics	Earth's Moon
Earthquakes	The Sun and the Solar System
Atmosphere	The Planets and the Solar System
Water in the Atmosphere	Stars and Galaxies
The Atmosphere in Motion	The Water Planet
Weather	The Moving Ocean

#### 3. Textbook and Other Materials

In order for students to be ready to learn at every given opportunity, I require students to come to class with the following supplies on a daily basis: pencil(s), pen(s), and regular sized lined paper.

#### 4. Grading Policy

The students will learn and be graded by accomplishing many different types of activities. Activities include labs, computer reports, class discussion & participation, individual & group projects, class & homework assignments & of course the dreaded tests. Most assignments are collected on test days with the science notebook. Grades can be checked at anytime by checking my website: [www.weathernut.com](http://www.weathernut.com).

#### Grading Scale

A:	90-100%
B:	80-89%
C:	70-79%
D:	60-69%
Fail:	Below 59%

Vocabulary Quizzes are given each chapter. Tests are given at the end of each chapter and will be worth 100 points. Tests and Quizzes missed due to an excused absence can be retaken with no penalty. F or D level Tests and Quizzes can be made up for a grade of up to 70% only. The makeup day for tests and labs is Thursday after school. In some situations, as determined by the teacher, grades or work required may be modified to fit the needs of individual students.

## 5. Classroom Management Policy

**In order to create the best learning atmosphere possible, the following rules shall be followed in my classroom:**

- Working on the lessons of the day during class takes precedence over **all** other activities.
- A safe learning environment shall be kept.

**If a student chooses not to follow the rules, the following steps may be taken, but not necessarily in the order listed:**

- Verbal reminder
- Home communication
- Detention
- Referral
- Class Suspension
- Parent Conference

## 6. Assignment Policy

Assignments are given on a daily basis. Late work due to excused absence is due the day following your return. For some assignments it is just not possible to make up, for example labs. Other late work will not be accepted. **Getting and turning in all assignments is the student's responsibility.** Assignments for the week can always be checked on my website: [www.weathernut.com](http://www.weathernut.com).

## 7. Academic Honesty

Cheating by students in my class is a major concern of mine. This robs the students of the reason for education, learning. This can take many forms: copying someone's homework, copying test answers, providing answers to someone, plagiarism, etc. An automatic zero on the assignment, report to school district and a parent contact will result.

## 8. Attendance Policy

Your attendance is important and is directly related to your success in this course. I can always give you copies of assignments. I can never give you back the hour of instruction and help you lose by your absence. As a side note, each day of absence, no matter the reason, means that the school loses \$40 per student. The school tardy policy is strictly enforced.

## 9. Teacher Contact

I am available before and/or after school for help. Please mention that you will be coming to ensure that I will be in my room to help you. My conference period is 7th period. Additional information such as **grades and lesson plans** can be found at my class web site: <http://www.weathernut.com>.

## 10. Science Safety

The safety of students in my class is the most important concern. I will devote one class period at the beginning of the semester to discuss and teach safe laboratory safety practices to be used. Students must pass a laboratory safety test (80% or higher) and sign a safety contract in order to be allowed to participate in labs. Failure to do so will result in zeros on the missed labs. *Students choosing to participate in unsafe laboratory practices will receive a class suspension, a zero on the lab and will be required to recertify their science lab safety.*

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THE BOTTOM SECTION OF THIS FORM

We have read and understand Mr. Gavin's science class policies.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student Signature, please write legibly for credit)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent E-Mail Address