

**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).

**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/quizzes. Most assignments are collected at the end of each period. Grades can be checked at anytime by checking my website: [www.weathernut.com](http://www.weathernut.com).

Grading Scale	Assignment Rubric
A: 90-100%	5: Completed all work with complete understanding
B: 80-89%	4: Understands most concepts and nearly complete
C: 70-79%	3: Understands basic concepts and not complete
D: 60-69%	2: Minimal effort/understanding Shown
Fail: Below 59%	1: Assignment was started

Tests are given at the end of each week and will be worth 50 points. Tests 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. In some situations, as determined by the teacher, grades or work required may be modified to fit the needs of individual students. *Passing this class is required for graduation.*

## 5. Classroom Management Policy

**In order to create the best learning atmosphere possible for all students, 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 makeup, for example labs. Other late work will not be accepted. **Getting and turning in all assignments is the student's responsibility. Check the website, check the agenda, or ask me for assignments missed due to absence if I fail to inform you.**

## 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.

## 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. 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. *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