

# Mrs. Thennis Earth Science Classroom Expectations and Syllabus

Welcome to Earth and Space Science! In this course, students will learn to think like scientists. Students will be asking questions, developing, and using models, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematics and computational thinking, constructing explanations, engaging in argument from evidence, and obtaining, evaluating and communicating information.

## Topics

### Semester 1

- Unit 1. Nature of Science
  - Metrics and measurement
  - Technical writing and research
  - Experimental design
  - Laws, theories and facts
- Unit 2. Formation/Composition of Earth
  - Origin of Earth
  - Density and Earth's interior
  - Magnetosphere and auroras
- Unit 3. Plate Tectonics
  - Boundaries and landforms
  - Earthquakes and mountains
- Unit 4. Geologic Time
  - Interpreting the rock record
  - Fossil formation
  - Hydrology, weathering and erosion

### Semester 2

- Unit 5. Origins of Our Universe
  - Stellar life cycles and spectroscopy
  - The electromagnetic spectrum
- Unit 6. Earth's Place in Space
  - Galaxies, solar system & planetary motion
- Unit 7. Weather and Climate
  - Meteorology & severe weather phenomena
  - Biogeochemical cycles
- Unit 8. Human Sustainability
  - Surface & ground water systems
  - Energy resources
  - Effects of climate change
  - Human impacts/future predictions

**Contacting the Instructor:** The best way to contact me is through email at [cthennis@helenaschools.org](mailto:cthennis@helenaschools.org) or have your student send a Team Chat using the Teams platform.

**Teacher Expectations** Provide lessons to improve understanding, knowledge, and critical thinking skills. Provide feedback on assignments and show student progress.

**Parent/Guardian Responsibilities** Research shows engaging in your child's education improves student achievement, behavior, attendance, and graduation rates! Ask your child what they are learning at school. Contact me to discuss any issues with your child's education. If your child is going through a stressful or challenging time, please make school counselors and/or teachers aware so we can better work with your child. Review your students Teams and PowerSchool account to see their progress.

**Student Expectations:** Students should work hard and follow Bengal Expectations as outlined below.

**Grading** The grading scale is as follows: A: 90-100%, B-80-89%, C: 70-79%, D: 60-69%, and F: below 60%. The semester grade will be calculated as follows: Quarter 1 (45%), Quarter 2 (45%), and Semester Test (10%); these percentages are subject to change. Grading is based on daily work, quizzes, tests, projects, and labs.

**Late Work:** The emphasis of this class is student learning. Do all the assignments for the sake of learning and as reminder, it is better to turn in a late assignment than no assignment at all. Late work will be accepted for up to a C (70%). No late work will be accepted after the unit test. It is understood that there are extenuating circumstances which may interfere with a student's class work—please let me know if you need an extension or help completing your work.

**Absences and Tardies:** It is your responsibility to make-up the work for your absence. If you are absent, check Teams and/or ask the teacher what you missed so you can learn the content and be better prepared for unit assessments. Please talk with the teacher if an extension is needed. You are tardy if you are not in the classroom and actively preparing for the day's lesson when the bell rings. Tardies will be recorded in PowerSchool.

**Materials and Supplies** These materials are required for each student. Please let the teacher know if you cannot obtain these materials. •Charged computer • Pencil • Composition Notebook •Folder to hold class materials

**Cell Phones/Electronics** Cell phones (and other electronics besides your computer) are not to be seen during the period and should be stored away. Occasionally, the teacher will let you know when you can use cell phones for educational purposes, such as Kahoot, stopwatch, timers and alarms. Cell phone infractions will be reported to administrators. Three strikes and you will not be allowed to have your cell phone at school.

**Honesty Policy** Students will act with academic integrity. Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated on any assignment. Copying assignments is considered cheating. Academic honesty is paramount to student learning and students must submit work that represents their authentic learning. Failure to do this will result in following school and district protocol for student plagiarism.

#### **Other Important Stuff**

- Backpacks will be left in the designated area at the beginning of the class period with cell phones, smart watches, ear buds, etc. These can be accessed when the dismissal bell rings.
- FOOD AND BEVERAGES (excluding water) ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE SCIENCE CLASSROOM AT ANY TIME. Water is permitted during instruction time but not during labs.

#### **Consequences for not following the Classroom Expectations**

1. Teacher and student discussion/warning
2. Phone call/email home to parent or guardian and administrator
3. Discipline Referral, handled by administration

**Remember, as a student, you are here to learn; you are not here to fail!**

**Please submit this as an assignment on Teams to demonstrate that you have read and understand this document.**