



Mr. Dennis' 9th Grade Science Syllabus



Contact Information:

Room 332 kdennis@cbsd.org (267) 893 – 2900 Ext 6429 <http://cbsd.org/kdennis>
Course Content: <https://www.cbsd.org/canvas> Resource: 6th Period – B Days

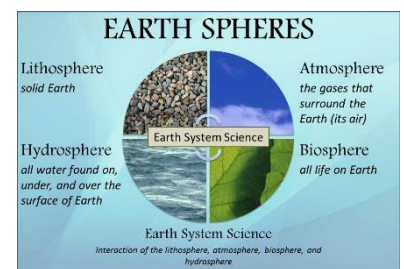
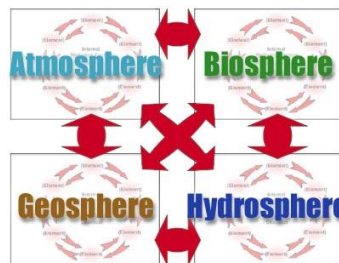
About Mr. Dennis – This is my 20th year at Tamanend Middle School. I am a 1998 Central Bucks East graduate and graduated from Villanova University in 2002. This year I am teaching 4 sections of Academic and 1 section of Honors 9th grade science. I have two daughters; Maggie turns 12 in October and is in 6th grade and 9-year-old Emily is in 4th grade. Both are enrolled at Buckingham Elementary. In addition, I am entering my 15th season as the Varsity Baseball Coach at CB East during the spring. My wife of 16 years is employed as the Director of Pupil Services in the Downingtown Area School District.

Communicating with Mr. Dennis – Face to face communication is always preferred. Students can always contact Mr. Dennis using their school issued email address to contact me with any questions or concerns. I check my email regularly and will get back to you as soon as possible.

Textbooks – Access to the online textbook will be made available to students at the start of the year. Students can utilize this link: <https://launchpad.classlink.com/> to access the textbook. How to do this will be reviewed in class. A class set of physical textbooks is available for students in the classroom. Any student who would like a textbook to keep at home for the school year should sign one out with Mr. Dennis.

Materials – Class will operate so that students can complete all items digitally or on paper. Students will only need their laptop and headphones to use Canvas, OneNote, and various web resources. Paper copies will also be available to students, in which case pens and pencils will also be required.

Course Description – Ninth Grade Science is an integrated course that explores Earth's four spheres and how they interact. The 4 units of study include: biosphere, geosphere, atmosphere, and hydrosphere.



Course Policies

Labs – An important part of science is collecting and analyzing data. Labs will be completed this year; data will be analyzed, and conclusions will be drawn. Proper behavior and safety will be reviewed prior to each lab.

Submission of work – All student work will be posted to Canvas. If a student is absent, they can find all necessary classwork in Canvas. Not all student work will be collected. Items that are collected will be submitted digitally through Canvas, OneNote or on paper. Students will have freedom to decide how they interact with the content.

Grading

Your marking period grade will be based 100% on Summative Assessments – Summative assessments are given at the end of instruction to evaluate student growth. These include lab analysis tests, quizzes, performance assessments, projects, and various other methods of assessing student growth, learning and how they are meeting standards.

In Canvas and in the Campus Portal, you will also see one other category called **“Practice”**. This category is for informational purposes and will not impact your overall grade in science. It will contain *formative assessments* that are any formal or informal assessment tool used to evaluate students grasp of content. This may include small quizzes, in class activities, exit tickets, oral response, digitally collected data or other assignments. This category will also include various *learning tasks* that are to be completed by students to help them learn material. These could include notetaking, warm-up activities, homework, pre-lab completion and practice.

Core Assessments - The 9th Grade Science course has 3 District Core Performance Assessments and 4 District Unit Finals:

- District Core Performance Assessments: (10% of overall science grade)
 - “Ocean Acidification” – given during Hydrosphere Unit
 - “Land and Sea” – given during Atmosphere Unit
 - “Peppered Moth” – given during the Biosphere Unit

- 4 District Unit Finals: (10% of overall science grade)
 - The 4 grades are accumulated and reported as the final exam grade in science. These assessments are Geosphere, Hydrosphere, Atmosphere and Biosphere Final exams. There is no large exam at the end of the school year.

Honors 9th Grade Science students are also required to:

- Read one self-selected non-fiction science book and discuss in small groups.
- Read multiple scientific journal articles per unit.
 - Articles will be made available to students a few times a month. Often, students will be required to complete an activity regarding an article that is sent. These will be announced in advance.

Second Chance Learning

Second chance learning will be offered to students regularly on summative assessments. Mr. Dennis will be available for reteaching Monday through Thursday during IE time.

To earn a second chance, a student must:

1. Inform Mr. Dennis via email of their intention to retake the assessment within 3 days.
2. Complete missing work for the topic of the assessment.
3. Complete second chance learning within one week receiving the summative assessment grade.

In accordance with district policy, the highest grade on any retake will be a 90%.

Exceptions:

District Unit Finals are not available for second chance learning.

District Core Performance Assessments are available for second chance learning up to 100%.