

9th Grade Honors Science

Mr. Collins

Room 126

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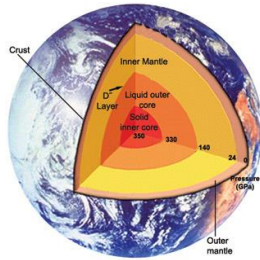
TEXTBOOK: *Earth Science (Pearson)*

Each student will have online access to this book from home. You can login via Canvas or Office365. If you'd like a physical copy of the book, let me know and you can sign one out to keep at home.

OVERVIEW OF UNITS AND TOPICS COVERED THIS YEAR:

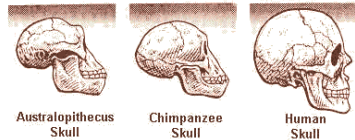
UNIT 1: THE GEOSPHERE

- The rock cycle
- Shaping Earth's surface
- Plate tectonics
- Resources
- Geologic time scale



UNIT 2: THE BIOSPHERE

- Natural selection
- Phylogenetic trees
- Evidence for evolution
- Hominid skull lab



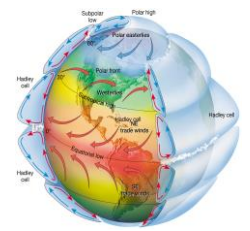
UNIT 3: THE HYDROSPHERE

- Water properties and chemistry
- Seafloor features
- Ocean circulation
- Waves and tides



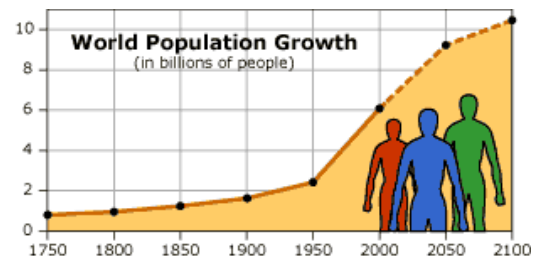
UNIT 4: THE ATMOSPHERE

- Layers and composition
- Air Pressure
- Weather vs. climate
- Greenhouse Effect



UNIT 5: HUMAN IMPACT

- Population
- Climate change
- Pollution
- Energy resources



Class Requirements: Every day you must bring a pen/pencil, science journal, 3-ring binder, and your laptop computer.

BE ORGANIZED! You will be receiving many papers in this class. Keep your binder neat and organized. Keep all your papers dated and in order until the end of each unit.

Core Assessments:

- Core 1: *Peppered Moth Study* (Biosphere unit)
- Core 2: *Ocean Acidification* (Hydrosphere unit)
- Core 3: *Coastal Climate* (Atmosphere unit)
- Final Exam: *This assessment consists of 4 separate unit tests, one for each of the first four units. You will keep track of your unit test scores throughout the year. By the end, you will have accumulated a total score out of 100 points. This score will count for 10% of your grade for the course.*

Grading: *Your grade will include the following:*

- Tests and quizzes (60%): All test and quizzes are based on readings, notes, journal entries, directed readings, class discussions, labs, and homework assignments.
- Class work (30%): This includes smaller in-class assignments as well as labs. Most lab work will be done in small groups and will be graded based on the 5-point rubric, then multiplied by a numerical factor to determine its total point value.
- Homework (10%): Homework usually will be assigned once or twice per week. Assignments will be posted in the classroom as well as your Canvas calendar. All assignments must be completed on time for credit.
- **Honors Science assignments:** Honors students are required to complete various reading and research tasks throughout the year, including:
 - Scientific magazine/journal articles for each unit
 - One non-fiction science book (list of suggestions will be provided)
 - One extended research project on topic of your choice

FINAL GRADE CALCULATION: *Your final grade for the year will be calculated as follows:*

▪ Marking periods →	80% (20% * 4)
▪ Core assessments →	10% (3.33% * 3)
▪ <u>Final exam</u> →	10%
TOTAL =	100%

Classroom Procedures:

When you come into my classroom:

1. Be seated right away.
2. Check the board and take note of any homework assignments
3. Begin the warm-up.

Absences and make-up work:

On the day you return from an absence you should turn in any work that was due and ask for missed assignments; this is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY**. Late homework assignments will not be accepted. Labs and other classwork will be accepted with a 10% grade deduction (one letter grade) for each day late. If you missed a test, quiz, or lab activity, you must to have arrange a time with me to make it up outside of class. **You can also stay ahead of the game by using the “Past Lessons” tab on Canvas.**

Expectations:

I have high expectations for **ALL** students in my class, especially 9th graders, as this is the beginning of your high school career. I view 9th graders as the leaders of our school and I expect **ALL** of my students to conduct themselves appropriately in my classroom. As your teacher, I promise to maintain a respectful, productive and organized classroom for **ALL** students.

Science is based on asking questions!

If at anytime you do not understand something, please ask! Chances are other students in the class have the same question. If you need additional help, please arrange a time to see me at lunch, resource, or after school.

HAVE FUN! Our goal is to become lifelong learners!

***First Assignment:** You must have a science journal
in class by _____.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____