# Mr. Zayas DZayas@CornwallSchools.com

# Earth Science Cornwall Central High School

Course Description

The Earth Science Program is a course of study designed to encourage students to investigate their world through first-hand experiences. Earth Science is one of the most relevant disciplines. Through this program, students should gain a new understanding of the world around them. By investigating the systems of the Earth and their interactions we can learn to appreciate the dynamic equilibrium of our planet. Students should also grow to understand their dependence upon the Earth, its finite resources, and limited ability to recover from abuse.

**Daily Class Requirements:**

1. Three ring Binder (or notebook AND folders) 3. Blue or Black pens & pencils

2. Four Function Calculator 4. Colored Pencils

**Class Regulations:**

All school rules will be followed in the classroom. Make sure that you are fully prepared for each class session, as passes will be kept to a minimum.

**Grading**:

Per marking period: Tests = 40% Homework = 10%

Labs = 30% Participation = +- 3%

Quizzes/Activities = 20%

Course Average = 21% (per quarter) + 6% (midterm) + 10% (regents’ exam)

Please note: The Regents’ Exam is also our course final. If a student is absent (or lab requirement barred) for this exam, a zero (0) will be factored in as the exam’s grade.

**Labs:**

According to NYS regulations: for a student to take the Earth Science Regents Exam, they must have a minimum total of 1200 minutes of acceptable lab experience. This translates into 30 labs. During this academic year, we will be completing approximately 33 labs. This means that students at most can miss and/or fail only 3 labs. Labs will be assigned approximately once a week.

Our labs have been designed to be completed within a single class period and are therefore due at the end of that assigned period. Labs submitted after this are considered late and may be submitted late with no penalty for up to one lab cycle (4-school “letter days”) from the day that the lab was given. Students are responsible for finishing lab questions at home and/or for making an appointment to come in during their free time to complete any incomplete lab assignment.

After one lab cycle has passed, submitted labs will only be reviewed for regent’s credit, and if deemed acceptable, will be factored in as a grade of an “RC”, (regent’s credit). An “RC” is the equivalent of a score of 50 towards a student’s average. A 50 is the minimum score allowable for a lab to be considered acceptable towards the 1200-minute requirement.

Should a student receive less than a 50 on a lab, they will be permitted to re-do and re-submit the lab continually until the lab is considered acceptable up until the final due date for each quarter. This resubmission of a failed lab will count for an “RC” only.

Remember: failure to have 30 acceptable labs will result in a student being barred from the Regents Exam which usually means automatic failure of the course as well as being barred from repeating the course in summer school. It is a student’s responsibility to schedule an appointment to make up any work missed due to absences.

**Quizzes:**

Quizzes may be given with or without notice and will usually be based on the previous night’s homework. In order to pass pop quizzes, you MUST do your homework!

**Homework:**

It is a fact that true learning does not occur simply in the classroom. Therefore, homework will be given almost every night. All homework will be based on either that day’s work, or as an introduction to the next day’s work. Many homework assignments will be graded on a question-by-question basis. Credit will not be given for simply putting ink on paper.

**End of Quarter:**

Work must be submitted by each assignment’s deadline. Work cannot be submitted for the purpose of changing a previous quarter’s grade.

**Classroom Procedure:**

We will cover a lot of material which is not in your textbook. There are also enough handouts to account for half of the rainforest. It is imperative that you maintain a neat, current, and useful notebook and have it with you every day of the school year.

If for any reason a class is missed for a known reason, (music program, field trips, lessens, etc.), students must let me know about it with enough notice beforehand. This will allow me time to make available the work that would otherwise be missed, as well as announce any homework assigned during that time. If students come to me after the (music program, field trips, lessens, etc.), the work will be considered late therefore may not be submitted for credit.

Students are also responsible for all classwork while they are out. This includes getting all notes and/or handouts. If an absence occurs on the day of a test, the test will be made up on the next day the student is in class.

**If you are caught talking or communicating in any way, or caught cheating during a test or quiz, you will receive a ZERO as the test/quiz grade.**

**If any work is shown to not be your original work, you will receive a grade of a ZERO as that assignment’s grade.**

**We have been directed to follow the student discipline code in regard to student’s use of electronic devices in the classroom. Therefore, all students must turn their electronic devices and electronic peripherals (earbuds/headphones) off and away as per the student discipline code.**

**Use of electronic devices during exams/quizzes will also result in a ZERO as your exam/quiz grade.**

**Class Rules:**

- Be seated in your assigned seat when the bell rings

- No talking out of turn

- No physical interaction, keep your hands to yourself and be respectful of others

- No eating in class

- Be prepared every day. I will not loan out calculators, ESRT’s or office supplies.

- No cell phone use in the class period or in the classroom.

**NOTE:**

I look forward to an enjoyable and productive year with your child. If there are any concerns that you have, or special situations that I should be aware of, please contact me at your earliest convenience. The longer you wait, the more detrimental to your child’s learning it could be. Please mark the report card and progress report dates on your calendar and look for the report in Schooltool, as reports cards are no longer sent via mail.

Please feel free to contact me at any time. I check my e-mail multiple times per day and so e-mail is the easiest way for me to reply. Phone messages can quickly turn into games of phone tag due to conflicting work schedules. Together, we can make this a successful year.

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Sign Off Sheet

I have read and reviewed the attached packet with my child which outlines:

- Course description

- Equipment List

- Laboratory Assignments importance

- Electronics policy

I acknowledge that my child is NOT allowed to use a graphing calculator in Regents Earth Science. NYSED does allow for the use of a scientific calculator or basic 4-function calculator. Failure to bring a calculator means that your child is willing to complete any math problems longhand which will increase the chances of their answering the question incorrectly and may cause them to run out of time in due to it taking longer to answer each question.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (printed): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (printed): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I tend to e-mail out a newsletter from time to time with information on assignments, unit exams, the Regents exam, as well as other bits of information. If you would like to be a part of this, please let me know your e-mail address. Typically, I will send out a confirmation e-mail to you within the first week of school. If you do not receive one from me, it may mean that I entered your e-mail address incorrectly. If that is the case, just shoot me a quick e-mail and I’ll correct it. Thank you.

Parent/Guardian’s E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Please print for legibility)