

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Class name: **Science 9**

Instructor: **Mr. Brian Spooner**

### **COURSE SYLLABUS**

#### **Course Description:**

The course includes the study of the earth and its processes. Emphasis is on the constant changing of the earth and the effects of these changes. Topics studied include mapping skills, earth-moon system, earthquakes, plate tectonics, rocks, and minerals, atmosphere and meteorology. A research paper on environmental issues is required.

#### **Course Objectives:**

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

Identify the 4 main branches of Earth Science including: Geology, Meteorology, Oceanography, and Astronomy. I would also like them to be able to use information learned in class and apply it to their everyday life so that they become more aware of the environment that they live in and how they can make contributions to improving our world for future generations.

#### **Required Class Materials:**

Each student will be required to bring materials that will be used everyday. They include the following: three ring binder, loose leaf paper, pencils (pencils are required for use on all labs completed in class), and pens. A couple optional items would include: highlighters, scissors, and a compass.

#### **Text:**

Holt, Rinehart, and Winston: Modern Earth Science

#### **Course Outline:**

The course includes the study of the earth and its processes. Emphasis is on the constant changing of the earth and the effects of these changes. Topics studied include mapping skills, earth-moon system, earthquakes, plate tectonics, rocks, and minerals, atmosphere and meteorology. A science notebook is required each semester.

#### **Major Assignments:** (Give approximate due times i.e. late October)

At the end of each semester each student will turn in a notebook worth 200 points. The notebook includes: science safety contract, class expectations, late work/homework policy, defined vocabulary words from each section of each chapter, notes from each section of each chapter, and concept maps from each section of each chapter.

#### **Grading:** (Grading Scale and if you weight your class list the weight of each category)

I use the High School grading scale which is:

A+ = 98-100  
A = 94-97  
A- = 92-93  
B+ = 90-91  
B = 87-89  
B- = 85-86  
C+ = 83-84  
C = 79-82  
C- = 77-78  
D+ = 75-76  
D = 72-74  
D- = 70-71  
F = 0-69

In my class each students grade is based on the number of points earned compared to the number of points possible. I do not have weighted grades in my class and the breakdown of points is as follows. Homework is between 5-20 points, quizzes are between 10-20 points, labs are between 40-50 points, packets are between 45-100 points, semester notebooks are worth 200 points, and tests are worth 100 points.

**Class Policies & Procedures:** (Include class policies and procedures i.e. lab make-ups, special requirements etc.)

- 1.) Respect all of the property in the Science Classroom.
  - a. Do not touch any item that is on the lab tables or on your work tables until you have been instructed to do so.
  - b. Handle all equipment with respect.
  - c. Follow all of the rules in the Science Safety Contract.
  - d. Pay attention to your work station it must be put back the same way it was when you got there.
  - e. Be careful not to knock things over that can break. (glass)
  
- 2.) Respect your classmates.
  - a. Do not use language that would be used to demean or harass another student or any staff member.
  - b. Do not borrow or search through another students stuff unless they give you permission.
    - i. Like if you needed to borrow a pen or pencil.
  
- 3.) There will be no food or drinks allowed in the classroom.
  - a. There are two exceptions to this rule.
    - i. You are allowed to chew gum.
      1. However, I should not see it or hear it!
    - ii. You may bring bottled water to class.
  - b. You are not allowed to have soda, sports drinks, flavored water, hard candy, suckers, candy bars, chips or anything else that is similar in nature.
  
- 4.) Come to class prepared everyday.
  - a. This means that you need to bring in your book, writing utensils, and your Science notebook everyday the entire year.

**Miscellaneous:** (anything else that students and parents should know about this course)

I expect the students in my class to participate in the activities that I have planned for that day. It is also my expectation that all students come to class prepared with the necessary materials that we will use on a daily basis. This would include the following items: textbook, notebook, pen, pencil, and paper.

**Instructor Contact:** (Days and times of availability, phone numbers, emails, etc.)

E-mail is always the easiest and most convenient way to contact me during the day while school is in session. My e-mail address is [bspooner@cusd4.org](mailto:bspooner@cusd4.org) and I am usually very quick to respond to parent questions and concerns.

If you do not have the ability to use e-mail to contact me at school then you can contact me at the school by calling 815-694-2321 if I am not available at the time you call please leave a message and I will contact you as soon as possible.