Forsyth County Schools
Earth Systems Syllabus 2023/2024

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Course Description (GaDOE): Earth Systems Science is designed to continue student investigations that began in K-8 Earth Science and Life Science curricula and investigate the connections among Earth's systems through Earth history. These systems – the atmosphere, hydrosphere, geosphere, and biosphere – interact through time to produce the Earth's landscapes, ecology, and resources. This course develops the explanations of phenomena fundamental to the sciences of geology and physical geography, including the early history of the Earth, plate tectonics, landform evolution, the Earth's geologic record, weather and climate, and the history of life on Earth. Instruction should focus on inquiry and development of scientific explanations, rather than mere descriptions of phenomena. Case studies, laboratory exercises, maps, and data analysis should be integrated into units. Special attention should be paid to topics of current interest (e.g., recent earthquakes, tsunamis, global warming, price of resources) and to potential careers in geosciences.

Standards: *Course Standards can be found at*
https://lor2.gadoe.org/gadoe/file/24123704-c715-4ded-95f1-cdec3ddb1a95/1/Science-Earth-Systems-Georgia-Standards.pdf

Required Assignments: Each unit will include hands-on activities/labs, quizzes, consolidated formative unit stamp sheet, unit projects, and unit tests.

Required Materials: Student will need to have a folder or binder to organize & store all of their unit materials and handouts

Availability for Extra Help: Students can request an IF pass at any time to receive extra help. Before and after school assistance will need to be scheduled in advance.

Makeup Work: *Make up work is defined as work assigned during a student's absence, not work assigned prior to an absence. The student has five (5) school days upon returning to school to complete make-up work. The teacher has the discretion to grant a longer period to make up work if there are extenuating circumstances.*

Grading Calculations:
Course Average = 50% (1st Sem. Course Work) + 50% (2nd Sem. Course Work)
1st and 2nd Semester Course Work = 75% Summative + 25% Formative

Grading Policy:
A = 90 – 100
B = 80 – 89
C = 70 – 79
Failing = Below 70

Formative Assessments include, but are not limited to, homework, class work, labs, investigations, practice tests, rough drafts, and sections of projects/research papers/presentations.

Summative Assessments include, but are not limited to, unit tests, final projects, final essays, formal lab reports, final research papers, and final presentations.

As a part of their participation in PSAT and/or SAT testing, students may be expected to utilize accounts created with the College Board via their official website. These accounts provide students with the ability to register for the PSAT and SAT assessments, as well as other program resources as offered by the College Board. Parents and students should review the College Board privacy policies and collaboratively create and manage this account. For additional information, please contact the PSAT/SAT Coordinator at your student's school, and visit https://privacy.collegeboard.org/privacy-center/.

Learning Resources/Textbook(s): All learning resources, both print and digital, are meant to support and enhance the student learning experience in this class. Below are the names of the textbooks and websites that will be used in this course. Some of the web-based resources require parent permission per federal regulations. Federal laws that guide parent permission requirements are as follows:

- **Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA):** The school is required by CIPA to have technology measures and policies in place that protect students from harmful materials including those that are obscene and pornographic. Any harmful content contained within inappropriate sites will be blocked. http://fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/cipa.html
- **Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA):** COPPA applies to commercial companies and limits their ability to collect personal information from children under 13 years of age. No personal student information is collected for commercial purposes. https://www.ftc.gov/tips-advice/business-center/guidance/complying-coppa-frequently-asked-questions-0
- **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):** FERPA protects the privacy of student education records and gives parents the right to review records. Under FERPA, schools may disclose directory information in certain circumstances. http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa

Please review the resource list. Each website related to the curriculum resources is provided along with its privacy policies. Should you have any questions regarding these resources, immediately contact the course teacher via email or phone.

Name of Resource*	Hard copy/Website	Privacy Policy
Holt, Rinehart & Winston *Earth Science*	Class set of textbooks	Not applicable
Explore Learning	Digital supplemental material (accessed via ClassLink)	https://www.explorelearning.com/index.cfm?method=Controller.dspPrivacy
Newsela	Digital supplemental material (accessed via ClassLink)	https://newsela.com/about/privacy-policy/
Pivot Interactives	Digital supplemental material (accessed via ClassLink)	https://www.pivotinteractives.com/privacy-policy
Discovery Education	Digital supplemental material (accessed via ClassLink)	https://www.discoveryeducation.com/privacy-policy/

* The following resources are county approved. These resources may vary by school due to sequencing, pacing, curriculum design, and/or individual needs of students.

Parent Initial for Approval **	Name of Resource	Website	Privacy Policy
	Gizmos	https://gz.explorelearning.com/	https://apps.explorelearning.com/account/el/privacy
	PHET Interactive Simulations	https://phet.colorado.edu/	https://phet.colorado.edu/en/help-center/getting-started https://www.cu.edu/privacy-policy

** The following resources are web-based resources that require parent permission. By signing the syllabus, the parent is approving these resources. Should you have any questions regarding any of these classroom resources, please contact your student's teacher via email.

I, _____, have read this course syllabus and approve of its contents. I agree to allow my student to use each of the classroom resources listed in the learning resource section. I will support my student in following the classroom expectations outlined in this course syllabus. I agree that I am the person who is legally allowed to consent for my student, whose name is listed below.

_____
Student's Name (Print)

_____
Parent Name (Print)

_____   _____
Parent Signature   Date