

# Earth Science Syllabus

Text: Glencoe Earth Science: Geology, the Environment and the Universe, 2005 The text is available online for purposes of homework/studying. The access code will be given the first week of school.

Course Description: The study of Earth Science connects the chemistry of Earth's materials, the physics of Earth's processes, and the resulting Earth structures through time. We will investigate basic science skills and apply them to the study of minerals, rocks, erosion, volcanism, plate tectonics, Earth's history, Earth's atmosphere and weather, the physical and biological properties of the oceans, and the Earth's place in the universe.

Students interested in being classified Honors in an integrated honors course will notify the teacher during the first week of class. Prospective Honors students must have an 89/B average in each grading area (noted below) by the completion of the first binding progress report (March 2, 2010) to be enrolled as an Honors student for the term. If the student does not meet this criterion, then the student will no longer be considered as an Honors student. The grades will not be recalculated if a student is dropped as an Honors student. Honors students will receive additional work assignments which require higher level cognitive skills. This may include an extra project, additional homework problems, and additional honors questions on quizzes and tests.

Expectations: The PCHS Honor pledge will be observed by all students: "On my honor, I will not cheat, lie or steal, nor tolerate those who do." Students will write the Honor Code statement on all assignments and assessments and sign it. We will follow the school-wide discipline plan which assigns demerits specific to each offense.

Materials: A two to two-and-a-half inch binder with dividers, notebook paper, flash drive, four-function calculator, pen and pencil. **Students need to bring text and materials to class daily.** Consequences for chronic failure to be prepared begin with after school retention for help with organization, and end with a conference among teacher, Natural Science Department chair, student and his/her parent(s). Other supplies include scissors, glue stick, colored pencils (a small package), and Highlighters in 4 different colors.

Donations of Anti-bacterial wipes and hand gel, and tissues are welcome. Our flu season isn't over yet.

Assessments: Quizzes and tests will be scheduled as chapters or units are completed. I prefer more frequent tests of lesser amounts of material. Mid-terms are comprehensive and finals include some material from earlier in the year, and they count 20 percent of the course grade. There will be frequent homework and it will be graded. There will be a minimum of one project per semester, with some of the work to be done in class. Labs and activities count as class work.

Late or missed work: Homework is due as assigned. Late homework is graded as a 50. If student is absent, homework is due on the day after the student's return or within a reasonable timeframe determined by the teacher. Late projects will be marked down 20% on the first day and 30% on the second day. On the third day, student grade will be zero. Class work is due as assigned. For longer anticipated absences, the student will meet with the teacher to discuss a plan to complete work ahead of time. For other situations, contact the teacher ([jmcdonald@peninsulacatholic.com](mailto:jmcdonald@peninsulacatholic.com)), send a note with your student or call the school at 757-596-7247 and leave a message for Mrs. McDonald.

Grading: Guided practice—class work, activities, labs—30%  
Independent practice—projects and homework—35%  
Assessments—quizzes and tests—35%