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**Earth Science Course Syllabus**

**Wando High School** (843) 881-8200

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| **Teacher**: Tracey Mahon  **E-mail** : Tracey\_Mahon@charleston.k12.sc.us  **Website** : http://mahonearthscience.weebly.com/ | **Classroom** : C210  **Office Hours:** M, T, Th, & F  7 :30 – 8 :00 a.m. |

**I. Course Description:**

Earth Science is a laboratory course designed to serve as a foundation course for other high school science courses. It emphasizes inquiry-based learning, process skills, and higher order thinking skills. Instruction is based on the SC Science Curriculum Standards, where that content will be interwoven within multiple case studies throughout the semester. Because experimentation is the basis of science, laboratory investigations are an integral part of this course. Investigative, hands-on laboratory activities that address the high school inquiry standards are central to effective instruction in this course. The following scope and sequence of the class is based on the South Carolina Earth Science State Standards. General topics of each unit, standards covered within each unit, and the general time frame of each unit.

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| **Case Study 1**  **Dinosaurs and Earth’s History** | **Case Study 2**  **Geology and History of South Carolina** | **Case Study 3**  **Space** |
| **Unit 1** **(10 days)**  3a.5, 4a.4, 4a.5, 4a.6   * Fossils * Minerals * Rocks * Dating (Relative and Absolute)   **Unit 2 (8 days)**  3b.1, 4a.1, 4a.2, 4a.3, 4a.7   * Earth’s History * Chemistry Basics * Carbon Cycle * Fossil Fuel Formation   **Unit 3 (9 days)**  3a.1, 3a.2, 3a.3, 3a.4, 3b.3, 4a.3, 4a.7, 5a.7   * Earth’s Composition * Plate Tectonics and Evidence * Ring of Fire * Volcanoes * Sea Floor Data * Earthquakes + Epicenter Triangulation * Geologic Climate Changes * Extinction Events | **Unit 4** **(11 days)**  3a.5, 3a.6, 3a.7, 3a.8, 3b.3, 4a.3, 4a.4, 4a.5, 5a.7, 6a.2, 6a.3, 6a.6, 6a.8   * Climate over Geologic Time * Regions of South Carolina * South Carolina Soil * Mountain Building and Erosion * Rivers, Watersheds, Water Cycle * Coastal Plains, Karst Topography * Coastal Zone, Barrier Islands   **Unit 5** **(9 days)**  5a.1, 5a.2, 5a.3, 5a.4, 5a.5, 5a.6, 6a.1, 6a.7   * Atmosphere Composition * Atmospheric Circulation * Greenhouse Gasses * Ocean Circulation * Weather Maps / Isobars * Severe Weather / Hurricanes   **Unit 6** **(15 days)**  3b.1, 3b.2, 3b.3, 3b.4, 3b.5, 4a.7, 5a.8, 6a.4, 6a.5, 6a.8, 6a.9   * Human Impact * Shore Erosion * Mining and Agriculture * Developing Infrastructure * Use of Fossil Fuels / Natural Resources * Humans and Climate Change | **Unit 7** **(12 days)**  2a.1, 2a.2, 2a.3, 2a.4, 2a.5, 2b.1, 2b.2, 2b.3, 2b.4   * Formation of the Universe * Life Cycle of Stars * Formation of Galaxies * Our Solar System * The Moon |
| **Cumulative Exam on Units 1 – 3**  **(2x Major Assignment Grade)** | **Cumulative Exam on Units 4 – 6**  **(2x Major Assignment Grade)** | **Final Exam on Units 1 – 8**  **20% of Overall Grade** |

**\* indicates an additional topic for honors classes**

**II. Materials:** Textbook, pen/pencil, 3-ring Binder, & paper

**III. Goals**

1. You will grow your science skills and learn Earth Science concepts.
2. You will pass the final exam.
3. You will pass this class for credit towards your high school diploma.

**IV. Grading Policy**

**South Carolina Grading Policy Final Grade Quarter Grade**

A = 100% - 90% 1st Quarter = 40% Major Assignments = 40%

B = 89% - 80% 2nd Quarter = 40% Performance Assignments = 35%

C = 79% - 70%Final Exam = 20% Daily Assignments = 25%

D = 69% - 60%

F = 59 - 00%

**Common Cumulative Exams:** Students will take three (3) cumulative exams that will be common assessments throughout the Earth Science curriculum team. The first two common assessments will be cumulative overviews of each of the first two case studies (units 1-3 and units 4-6) and will count as 2 major assignment grades each. The final common assessment will be the Final Exam, which will be cumulative of everything that has been covered in class throughout the semester. Cumulative final examinations have a computational weight of 20% of the final average, as per CCSD policy, are required for all students in 9th thru 11th grades.

**Missed Work**: Make-up work and tests must be completed within 5 school days. A zero will be averaged into your grade if the work is not completed within 5 school days***.*** Check the class website and missing work folder. Come see me when you miss a day, and I will point you towards anything you missed. If there were any additional notes that were not part of a handout, you are responsible for getting them from a classmate. ***Here’s the key: communication! Talk to me, and we will work towards your success.***

**V. Classroom Procedures**:

* Dispose of any food or drinks (EXCEPT bottled water) before entering the classroom.
* Turn off your electronic device and put it in your purse or backpack, which should be placed under your seat UNLESS I instruct you otherwise. [**http://wandohigh.ccsdschools.com/for\_parents/school\_policies/electronic\_device\_policy/**](http://wandohigh.ccsdschools.com/for_parents/school_policies/electronic_device_policy/)
* Begin the Bellwork posted on the board immediately after entering the classroom.
* Bring your agenda to me if you have a medical or bathroom emergency. If another student is using the restroom, wait until that person returns before requesting to leave.
* Timeout Signal—when you see me holding up the Timeout Signal, you also hold up the Timeout Signal, be quiet, and listen.
* Stay seated until I dismiss you when the bell rings. Once I dismiss you, clear any trash in your area and throw it away as you leave.

**VI. Expectations**

* Be a W.I.S.E. Warrior—**W**ork hard. **I**nquire. **S**tay strong. **E**xemplify excellence.

**VII. Rules & Consequences**

* **The Rules:** You are expected to abide by all Charleston County and Wando High School policies as stated in the student handbook. Also, students must comply with all laboratory safety rules.
* **The Consequences:**

Level 1: Warning

Level 2: The Back on Track Chat:

1. What are you doing?
2. What are you supposed to be doing?
3. Are you doing it?
4. What should you do about it?

Level 3: Call home or call an administrator—depends on your behavior

***I am here to help*** *you earn this required course credit for your high school diploma. Please communicate with me, and we will work together towards you success. Never hesitate to ask questions, ask for help, and to learn from your mistakes—remember, the most brilliant people in the world asked questions, received help from others, and made mistakes. Please do your best and never give up! I promise I will do the same.*

**SYLLABUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & PERSONAL INFORMATION**

I have reviewed the course syllabus, procedures, and expectations for Mrs. Mahon’s Earth Science class. I understand that I/my child must comply with all policies and guidelines, which may be subject to change.

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**1. Student**, what do you want me to know about you that will help you pass this class?

**2. Parent/Guardian**, what are your student’s strengths and positive character traits?

**3. Parent/Guardian**, what are your expectations of me that will help your student succeed in class?

**4. Parent/Guardian** contact info:

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**5.** Please mark which of the following technologies you have at home:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Internet 2. \_\_\_\_\_ iPod/iPad 3. \_\_\_\_\_ Smartphone with internet access

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Computer 5. \_\_\_\_\_ Printer

**Laboratory Procedures and Safety Rules**

**Wando High School**

**Mrs.Tracey Mahon**

[**Tracey\_Mahon@charleston.k12.sc.us**](mailto:Tracey_Mahon@charleston.k12.sc.us)

1. Always read lab procedures and instructions for understanding FIRST.
2. Always follow the safety protocol prescribed for the lab. **NOTE**: ***Closed toe shoes must be worn on lab days.***
3. Carefully perform each procedure step in the order and manner that it is written.
4. Handle all equipment properly and carefully. When in doubt, ask the teacher for proper handling instructions.
5. Report ALL injuries and accidents IMMEDIATELY to the teacher.
6. Report any breakages and spills IMMEDIATELY. Have everyone step away from the area to prevent injury. The TEACHER will direct proper cleanup protocol.
7. Do NOT pour dispensed chemicals back into its original container. DO put it in the designated container. Again, when in doubt, ask the teacher for instructions.
8. Always, clean up the lab station when you are finished. Call the teacher to your station when you are ready for your Area Check. You may leave your station after you pass the Area Check.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Failure to comply with any lab procedures or safety will result in you completing the lab in an alternative format and a letter grade deduction for lab participation.

**LAB SAFETY AGREEMENT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, agree to: (a) Follow the teacher’s instructions, (b) protect my eyes, face, hands and body during laboratory, (c) conduct myself in a responsible manner at all times in the laboratory, and (d) abide by all of the specified safety regulations and procedures.  In doing so***, I understand that failure to comply with this lab safety contract will result in the forfeiture of my laboratory privileges for that day and a letter grade deduction to my lab score.***

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_