Millennium Brooklyn High School
237 Seventh Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11215
Telephone: (718) 832-4333
Fax: (718)-499-2126
www.millenniumbrooklynhs.org
Kevin Conway, Principal
Lindsey Baumgarten, Asst. Principal of Special Ed.
Nigel Franklyn, Asst. Principal of Organization
Jason Otto, Asst. Principal of Supervision

Earth Science Course Description

Instructor Contact

Mr. Wachter: jwachter@millenniumbrooklynhs.org
Mr. Pollard: wpollard@millenniumbrooklyn.org
Class Website: mbhsearthscience.weebly.com

Description & Objectives

This course is designed to help you interpret the world around you. Whether you are looking up at the animal shapes in clouds or cringing at the smell of rotten eggs at the caldera of a volcano, there are explanations for, and questions about why Earth is the way it is today. We will be exploring Earth systems and processes in the areas of astronomy, meteorology, and geology to help answer some of those questions and see where Earth is headed in the future. While passing the Regents is important for graduation, the real purpose of this course is to make you a more scientifically literate citizen with a knowledge base that you can apply to the real world.

Outline (order is subject to change)

1.Introduction and Basic Skills
2. Measuring the Earth
3. Rocks and Minerals
4. Dynamic Crust and Plate Tectonics
5. Earthquakes
6. Weathering, Erosion, and Deposition
7. Landscapes and Earth Surface Processes
8. Meteorology
9. Energy and Seasons
10. Astronomy

Classroom Expectations: There is essentially one expectation in this classroom: respect.

- ***Respect yourself*** – Show integrity in your own work (study, ask for help, do the best you can). All work completed in, or submitted for, this course must adhere to conditions articulated in the NYCDOE Chancellor's Regulations Academic integrity policy.
- ***Respect others*** – Be cooperative and understanding (be honest, raise your hand, use appropriate language).
- ***Respect property and nature*** – It is important not to harm/take/control what you don't own. Anyone who defaces property or leaves their area in a disorderly condition will stay to clean.

Required Materials	Reading Materials
• Minimum 1” Binder (larger binder may be shared if organized) • Box of #2 pencils • Loose-leaf paper • Metric Ruler	A Short History of Nearly Everything The Magic of Reality Cosmos

Assessments

1. *Do Now Questions* – Every day (with some exceptions) a question will be asked once the bell rings to start the period. This could be in the form of a practice Regents question, a question from the Earth Science Reference Tables, or an opinion question to help jump-start our lesson. Therefore, sometimes there is no "right" answer, but your thinking process is being assessed. Your answers will be completed on the tracking sheet that will be provided to you. Do Now Power Pass. After each do now we will randomly select a student to answer the question. If you are prepared with an answer you will receive ½ point on your power pass. This will be collected at the end of the marking period and added as extra credit.

2. *Homework* – Learning science is an ongoing process, and therefore expansion and reinforcement of ideas is necessary outside the classroom. It is therefore important that students budget their time and access the internet in school if necessary to view the videos. ***If a student fails to submit an assignment on time, a "0" should be placed in Pupilpath as a placeholder until the work is submitted. There will be a 10% penalty for every day that an assignment is late. After 5 school days, a student can only earn a maximum of 50% on an assignment submitted late. After 10 school days from the day the assignment was due, teachers should no longer accept the assignment for credit.***

3. *Lab Work* – Not only is a hands-on and inquiry-based experience in class critical to the understanding of Earth Science, but it is also **required by NY State (1,200 minutes)** in order to take the Regents in June. If you are absent the day/period a lab is given, you must arrange a time to make it up or it will turn into a zero and you will not receive lab hour credit.

4. *Tests, Projects, and Quizzes*

a) Tests will be given at the end of each unit mostly consisting of a mixture of multiple-choice and/or short answer questions. They will be based on class experiences, including concepts learned from labs, but it will also be important to review homework and quizzes. The majority of questions on tests will come from old Regents exams to serve as practice for your own exam in June. **Test corrections are typically in the format of a retake with the higher score taken.**

b) There will be at least one project each quarter. They will all require research, creativity, and patience, as well as independent work and teamwork.

c) Quizzes will follow the completion of major labs and topics within a unit, and sometimes will take the form of an open-lab quiz. There will also be weekly do-now quizzes.

Grade Policy

All grading will be done through a point system. This means that each assignment given will have a specific number of points allotted to it.

I have read this course description and understand what is expected of me (or my child) throughout the year in Earth Science.

Student Signature: ..... **Parent Signature:** .....