

# Syllabus – Earth Science 8

## Teacher – Mr. Schaa

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### Course Overview

Welcome to the wonderful world of Earth Science! Earth science is the study of Earth's interior, its rocks and minerals, its atmosphere, and outer space. This year we will be studying Matter, Astronomy, Geology, and Meteorology. We will continue to use scientific inquiry to conduct experiments and will be implementing the metric system when practicing measurement.

### General Approach

Classes will consist of labs and interactive lectures. Students will often be working in teams or with partners. There will be **no STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) project** required this year. If you would like to do a STEAM project, please let me know and I would be happy to help! Students who need or want enrichment are urged to participate. We will have a STEAM Fair at AMSA on Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup> for those who are ready to present. The District STEM Fair will be on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at Champlin Park High School.

### Materials

We will have two books this year. The first book is McDougal Littell – Matter and Energy, which we will use only for our Matter unit at the beginning of the year. The second book is McDougal Littell – Earth Science, which will be used later in the year when we begin Geology. You may check out your own copy of the book we are using but you will NOT be expected to bring it to class. I will provide books in class.

**Students need to bring these items to class everyday:**

- *1 ½ inch 3-ring binder*
- *Pencil or pen*

### Grading

In order to be successful in this class, students will need to study hard for tests, complete labs on time, and complete assignments on time – which include notes and vocabulary. Notes and vocabulary will be due on the day we take a test on that material. There are **2** ways to complete your notes: Study Guides (provided by teacher), or Flashcards (provided by teacher). Vocabulary will be completed during class.

### Grades will be broken down as follows:

- *Classroom Assessments* – 70%
- *District Assessment* – 10%
- *Assignments* – 20%

90 – 100%	A
80 – 89%	B
70 – 79%	C
60 – 69%	D
0 – 59%	F

Assessments are very important in science. Your grade is based on what you ACTUALLY know. Retakes **MUST** be done on any Learning Targets you have not passed and will improve your grade as you demonstrate your knowledge.

### Pretests, Brain Food and Check-In Quizzes

**Pretests** – All students will be required to take a pretest before each unit to determine what they already know. This prevents boredom and provides enrichment opportunities!

**Brain Food** – If a student passes a Learning Target on the Pretest they will have an opportunity to do Brain Food! Brain Food incorporates different kinds of enrichment for students who have already mastered the material currently being taught. They will do Brain Food **instead of** notes and vocabulary as long as the work is done well.

**Check-In Quizzes** – Each Learning Target will have a Check-In Quiz. Check-In Quizzes are NOT graded! However, they will tell the student what they still need to learn and they help the teacher reteach the student before the unit test.

### Rules and Policies

- Respect all people and property. This includes cleaning up after yourself and helping to keep our lab materials organized.
- You must bring your 3-ring binder and a pencil or pen to class EVERYDAY!
- Your parents **will be contacted** if you do not turn in your work on time.
- If you are absent, you must check the assignment calendar to the right of the whiteboard and retrieve the assignment from the extras tray if necessary. It is not my responsibility to tell you to do this. I will answer any questions you have about what you missed *after* you have checked the calendar. You have as many days as you were absent to make up the assignment.
- I WILL be handing out referrals to anyone who is tardy to my class 4 times. I am keeping track.
- You may not line up at the door to wait for the bell to ring. Please stay by your seats until the bell rings.

**We will have a great year, I'm excited to meet you! -Mr. Schaa**