**Welcome to PCHS and Earth/Environmental Science for 9th Grade!**

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The Earth/Environmental Science curriculum focuses on the functions of Earth’s systems. Highlights of the course include matter, energy, plate tectonics, origin and evolution of the earth and the solar system, environmental awareness, materials availability, and the cycles that circulate energy and material through the earth system. Earth/Environmental Science is intended to be an activity-based course, so participation is essential for success. This course will follow the NC Essential Standards for Earth/Environmental Science:  
http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/acre/standards/new-standards/science/earth-env.pdf

**Availability:** SMART Lunch: Monday (B) and Wednesday (A). SMART Lunch can be used for tutoring, missing assignments, collaborative assignments, and enrichment. Students should sign in and are expected to attend at least 4 sessions per quarter, 2 before and 2 after interims. Please also check our class website for information.

**Materials:** 3-ring binder with notebook paper and dividers, pencils/pens, (digital) textbook; highlighters, color pencils, and a calculator are optional but recommended.

**Textbook:** This course will use the [WCPSS online Earth Science textbook](http://www.ck12.org/user%3Aa29zaGluc2t5QHdjcHNzLm5ldA../book/WCPSS-Earth-Environmental-Science/). Each student may request to be assigned a hardcopy textbook as well—please see your teacher.

**Grades:**

Scale A 100-90% B 89-80% C 79-70% D 69-60% F Below 60%

*Honors Earth/Environmental Science*

Semester: Student Engagement 5% Final Grade:

Classwork/Homework 15% 1st Quarter 40%

Labs 20% 2nd Quarter 40%

Tests 60% State Exam 20%

*Earth/Environmental Science*

Semester: Student Engagement 10% Final Grade:

Classwork/Homework 20% 1st Quarter 40%

Labs 20% 2nd Quarter 40%

Tests 50% State Exam 20%

**Make-Up Assignments:** It is the responsibility of the student to make up all missed assignments. If class is missed for an excused reason, students should contact me concerning what they missed. If the student is absent one day, they will have one day to complete missing assignments…two absences will have two days to make up missing assignments…three absences will have three days to make up missing assignments. Extended absences will be considered on an individual basis. All students have the opportunity to make up missing assignments. In the case of unexcused absences, WCPSS policies and school guidelines will be followed. Due to equipment and time constraints, some activities are difficult to make up. If you miss an activity, you may be given a modified assignment as an alternative; however, you are still responsible for information covered in the activity.

**Late Assignments:** Late assignments are reduced 10% for each day late until graded class sets are returned, up to a maximum of 40%.

**Attendance:** Attendance is essential for success in this course. Advance notice will be given for activities, projects, and tests. If an activity or project is due or test scheduled on the day you are absent, you are expected to hand in the assignment or take the test on the day that you return to class. Extended absences will be considered on an individual basis.

**Tardies:** The following school tardy policy will be enforced:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Periods 1 and 3 (Administrator)** | **Periods 2 and 4 (Teacher)** |
| 1st Tardy - Warning | 1st Tardy - Warning |
| 2nd Tardy - Warning | 2nd Tardy - Teacher Assigned Consequence |
| 3rd Tardy - Lunch Detention | 3rd Tardy - Lunch Detention with Parent Contact |
| 4th Tardy - Administrator Referral | 4th Tardy - Administrator Referral |
| Additional Tardies - Administrator Referral | Additional Tardies – Administrator Referral |

**Safety:** Students must sign and follow the safety contracts explained in class and must keep a copy of the student contract for reference. Any student not adhering to safety guidelines will be asked to leave the classroom and will lose credit. Parents will be asked to sign the safety contract. It is important to remember…No food, No gum, No drinks, No unauthorized use of electronic devices!

**Restroom:** Each student will be expected to utilize the hall pass system.

**Intervention:** If a student scores below 70% on a unit test, the student has the opportunity to participate in an intervention program to improve content knowledge. Academic classes are allowed to remediate any unit test on which they score below 70%. Honors classes are allowed to remediate ONE unit test per quarter. Cumulative tests, quests, and the final unit test of each quarter cannot be remediated. The remediation process is outlined below.

**Eligibility Requirements**:

1. Unit Sheet **completed on time**.
2. Test grade below 70.

**Remediation Procedure**:

1. **SMART lunch #1**:
   1. Pick up and begin the remediation assignment.
   2. Complete the assignment at home.
2. **SMART lunch #2**: must be **within 1 week** of SMART lunch #1
   1. Return the completed remediation assignment.
   2. Take the remediation quiz (10 multiple choice questions).
   3. Remediation quiz score of 7-10 results in the original unit test grade being replaced with 69% in the gradebook.

**Expectations:** The four basic expectations of all Panther Creek students:

Participate actively in learning

Celebrate diversity

 Honors PCHS and WCPSS procedures and policies

Strive to be a person of character