

Earth Science Course Syllabus

Mr. MacArthur

Instruction: Room 2420

Office: 2250

Email: bgmacarthur@dcsdk12.org (**best way to get a hold of me**)

Office hours: Access and also by appointment

Course Description: Earth Science is the study of the Earth and the systems within and beyond it.

This course will cover the following topics:

- **Astronomy** (electromagnetic radiation, life cycle of stars, cosmology)
- **Physics** (laws of motion, properties of gravity, principles of waves, magnetism)
- **Climate** (global climate system, paleoclimate, climate change, carbon cycle, influence of climate on the biosphere)
- **Geology** (plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes)
- **Resources and Sustainability** (natural resources in human history, management of natural resources, sustainability of society and biodiversity)

Class Format:

- **Activities and Labs**
 - Earth Science is a “hands on” class that will require everyone’s participation while in class. Participation and working well with your peers are vital to your success in this course.
- **Homework**
 - Weekly homework will be assigned as well and is calculated into the final grade.
- **Lecture**
 - There will be a lecture component also to the class. Students will be expected to take notes in the class and study those notes. The tests and homework come directly from the notes we take in class.
- **Tests**
 - Tests will be given after every chapter in the book
 - There will be a final exam
- **Projects**
 - Will be assigned throughout the semester

Science Literacy:

Reading and writing are important skills in all areas of study including science. In this course, students will read and analyze scientific material, participate in scientific research, and demonstrate scientific writing in research papers.

Course Book

We will use a variety of reading sources, but the class notes will serve as your main text to study and get information from. There is not a formal textbook for this class.

Supplies

Every student is required to bring the following to class everyday:

- Pen and pencil
- Binder with paper or notebook

Not necessary but would be awesome for the whole class:

- Clorox wipes
- graph paper
- paper towels
- hand sanitizer
- color pencils
- glue

Grading Policy

Grades will be based on points for all homework assignments, labs, projects, and test.

The following grading scale will be used:

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

All grades are kept up to date on Infinite Campus

Extra Credit

As a general rule of thumb, I do not offer easy extra credit. From time to time, I may offer the class the opportunity to do extra work for possible bonus points. Other than that, I don't offer extra credit to select students. It is to your advantage to do extra credit when I offer it because it can only help your grade in the long run and may give you a bit of a "cushion." Don't expect me to offer extra credit at the end of grading terms or right before grades are due just so that you can raise your grade. That is not fair to those students who have worked hard the rest of the grading period to keep their grades up.

Classroom Expectations & Conduct

Every student and teacher is expected to treat others with respect and contribute to a positive learning environment. This includes:

- **Arrive to class on time** and be prepared to learn.
- **Be respectful and attentive** while others are speaking.
- **Avoid behaviors that disrupt** the learning of others.
- **Use appropriate language.** Profanity is not permitted.

- **Participate actively** in small and large group activities and projects
- **Remain in your assigned seat until the bell rings.**
- **No food or drinks** are permitted in class, except for water in a sealable container.
- **Hall/Bathroom Pass:** Only one student may use the pass at a time. Students should limit their time out of class to **5 minutes** and return promptly. Misuse of the pass may result in the loss of pass privileges.
- **Late Work:** Late work is not accepted unless arrangements have been discussed with the teacher in advance or extenuating circumstances warrant an exception.

When all else fails communicate with me. I want this year to be successful for everybody.

Highlands Ranch High School CD Implementation Plan

- 1) All teachers will designate a classroom container for students to place communication devices when they enter the classroom. Examples of this may be a hanging wall pouch, plastic tub, storage box, phone caddy or phone locker. If the classroom space contains individual lockers (PE), those may be used.
- 2) All students shall place their CDs in the designated container. Students may NOT opt to store their CDs on their person or in their backpack or bag.
- 3) All CDs will remain in the designated container until the end of class unless the teacher deems the use of the CD critical to the learning process in class. CDs shall not be used in place of BYOD or school issued technology devices.
- 4) Students may not take their CD with them when leaving class on a pass unless it is the last ten minutes of the period.
- 5) In the event the classroom/building must be evacuated, the stored CDs may be taken out in the storage container and distributed outside the building OR may be returned to the student on the way out the door at the discretion of the teacher.
- 6) In the event of a “Lockdown”, all CDs will initially remain in the storage container until it is determined to be safe to return to students.
- 7) It is the responsibility of the student to place the device in the designated container and retrieve it when told to do so.

Student failure to adhere to the CD Implementation Plan will result in the following progressive consequences. The consequences will apply on a per classroom basis.

<i>First Offense:</i>	Student warning and proper placement of the CD.
<i>Second Offense:</i>	Parent contact (phone call documented in IC) by teacher and proper placement of the CD.
<i>Third Offense:</i>	Student will surrender their device to the teacher who will bring the CD to the appropriate administrator or designee who will store it until they return it to the student at the end of the day and meet with the student. Parent contact (phone call documented in IC) by admin, CD returned to student at the end of the day.
<i>Fourth Offense:</i>	Student will surrender CD and it will be brought to the appropriate administrator or designee who will store it until they meet with the student. Parent contact (documented in IC) by admin, CD returned to student at the end of the day. Student assigned 1 day of In School Suspension.
<i>Fifth Offense:</i>	Student will surrender the CD and it will be brought to the appropriate administrator or designee who will store it until they meet with the student. Student loses CD privilege at school for the remainder of the semester. The student must check in with administration or designee each morning and surrender all CDs in their possession to be returned at the end of the day.

AI Policy

The use of AI to complete, write, or otherwise “do” your work for you is considered cheating in this class. If an assignment allows or encourages the use of AI, I will clearly communicate that expectation. If I do not specifically say that AI is permitted, assume that AI is off-limits.

Your work should reflect your own thinking, your own learning, and your own work. The goal is not simply to complete an assignment, but to develop the knowledge, skills, and critical-thinking abilities that come from doing the work yourself. This is the way.

Safety

All safety precautions must be observed during laboratories and demonstrations. Safety precautions will vary based on the lab or activity we are doing.

- ALWAYS wear safety goggles
- Tie back loose hair and clothing
- Never leave loose chemicals out
- Do not take any lab specimens out of the room.
- Follow all safety guidelines listed in specific lab procedures.
- Students must always adhere to all guidelines in the safety contract.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes. In the event of an absence;

- The absence must be excused through the attendance office.
- If the absence is unexcused the student will receive a zero for all assignments due that day.

Make-up work for an EXCUSED absence;

- Assignments that are due on the date of the absence are due immediately when the student returns to class
- Missed quizzes or tests must be made up within one week of the absence during Access.
- Make-up work is not accepted for unexcused absences

Tardies

- Students are expected to be in-class when the bell rings. Students with multiple tardies will be subject to a referral.

When all else fails communicate with me. I want this year to be successful for everybody.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students at HRHS are responsible for the integrity of their academic work. Upholding academic integrity requires self-discipline, ethical decision-making, and the ability to work both cooperatively and independently as appropriate. Cheating is strictly prohibited; any act of cheating will result in a zero for the assignment and potential disciplinary action. Furthermore, students who are members of the National Honor Society or Spanish National Honor Society face dismissal for such violations. The use of AI tools must strictly adhere to the ethical standards of plagiarism, citation, and student conduct outlined in this handbook. By following these guidelines, students can leverage the educational benefits of AI while maintaining the standards of integrity and ethical conduct expected at HRHS.

HONOR CODE

- As a student at Highlands Ranch High School:

- I will be responsible for all my actions.
- I will complete school assignments without cheating and/or plagiarizing.
- I will respect school property and the property of others.
- I will respect the rights and opinions of students, faculty, and members of the community, even when I disagree with those opinions.
- I will promote and practice ethical behavior within the school and the community. I will demonstrate excellence and fulfill my potential.
- I will not assist other students to plagiarize or cheat.

Any violation of the honor code will result in disciplinary consequences. Your teacher may decide to ask you to include the following statement on all tests, papers, or projects: "I did not cheat or plagiarize while completing this assignment." The disciplinary consequences for honor code violations are consistent with those described in the Douglas County Student Code of Conduct and Discipline and the Highlands Ranch High School Handbook.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is defined as the use of another person's ideas, words, or creative works without proper attribution. Proper attribution requires the use of quotation marks for direct quotes, as well as the inclusion of parenthetical citations and/or a bibliography for all referenced sources. Plagiarism is strictly prohibited at Highlands Ranch High School. Engaging in plagiarism will result in no credit for the assignment. Furthermore, violations may lead to disciplinary action in accordance with Douglas County School Board policy. Members of the National Honor Society or Spanish National Honor Society will be dismissed from the organization if found guilty of plagiarism. Additionally, counselors are required to include a statement of academic integrity on all college applications. Teachers utilize tools to verify sources if plagiarism is suspected, so please ensure you cite your work consistently. Finally, do not copy another student's work, nor provide your own work to others; aiding another student in cheating or plagiarizing is a violation of the Honor Code.

******Taken from page 3 of the HRHS 2026-2027 Student Handbook******