



Apex High School

1501 Laura Duncan Rd
Apex, NC 27502
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Teacher: Ms. Kerry Piper

Course: Earth/Environmental Science

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Public Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/piperatthepeak/>

Office Hours: Thurs 2:20-3:20 or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Earth/Environmental Science focuses on geo-inquiry into **the functions of the Earth's systems and our interaction with the environment**. The curriculum is organized into units based on the spheres of the Earth (lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere) with an initial unit on Astronomy. Each unit focuses on the processes that drive the system as well as how it affects humans and how humans can affect it. We will be exploring the questions: Where is it? Why is it there? Why should we care?

Learning Goals are outlined in the [NC Essential Standards](#). Our daily agendas reflect the standards and are available on Canvas. They should be read carefully by you and your parent/guardian. You will be tested on this entire curriculum with a teacher made final exam.

NC ESSENTIAL STANDARDS:

Learners will be able to:

0. Understand how today's global challenges are linked to an understanding of how Earth is mapped.

EES.1 Explain how Earth's position relative to the sun influences conditions on Earth. -ASTRONOMY

EES.2 Analyze how the GEOSPHERE is shaped by plate tectonics and the rock cycle.

EES.3 Analyze how the interactions between the HYDROSPHERE and ATMOSPHERE transfer energy and influence climate.

EES.4 Analyze the connections between the BIOSPHERE and other Earth systems (geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere).

EES.5 Evaluate how HUMAN CONSUMPTION patterns impact Earth's systems.

EES.6 Analyze how earth systems impact humans and the biosphere. - HAZARDS & HUMANS

Exam Review

Final Exam

Quizzes ~weekly

Major Assessment

1 Quiz

1 Quiz & Test

2 Quizzes & Test

2 Quizzes & Test

1 Quiz & Project

3 Quizzes & Test

1 Quiz & Project

Final Exam

Retake Policy: We do offer **IN-PERSON** retakes for quizzes and tests for academic students. Students will take the assessment one time and then they can retake the same version during office hours or by appointment. The student's original score and their second score will be averaged for their new score. Students should **ALWAYS** try their best on their first attempt!

First Attempt: 0%

Second Attempt: 100%

Final Score: 50% (0 + 100/2 = 50)

MISSION: Apex High School will provide a relevant and engaging education and will graduate students who are collaborative, creative, effective communicators and critical thinkers.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Assignment log/Planner/Calendar
2. A 3-Ring binder (1" or more) with loose-leaf paper
3. Pencil and pen (Blue/black for graded work)
4. Colored pencils, crayons, or markers
5. A device to access digital course material and possibly printer with paper and ink if you want extra copies

HONOR CODE:

- We take integrity very seriously at Apex High School which is why there is no point in time where **cheating/plagiarism** is tolerated. While we encourage group work for students to build relationships with each other, students should **NOT** be turning in identical work.
- We use Lockdown Browser during quizzes and tests - students should not click off their assessment at any point, use any outside resources, or have their phones out. If cheating/plagiarism occurs, the incident will be reported to administration and parents/guardians will be contacted. First time cheating offenses of any kind result in an immediate 0 with the opportunity to retake/redo the assignment/assessment, with the highest possible new score being a 60. Subsequent offenses will receive 0 credit and disciplinary action.

EVALUATION AND GRADING:

- You will be evaluated in a variety of ways (classwork, quizzes, tests, projects) to demonstrate your mastery of course concepts and science practices.
- Grades are calculated as total points with assignments and assessments recorded and stored in **PowerSchool**. While **feedback** will be available in **Canvas**, please be sure to check PowerSchool often for your official grade.
- Parents/guardians can **"observe"** their student on Canvas with a pair code from their student or email me for assistance.
- All assignments and work will be given point values with grade percentages as follows:

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

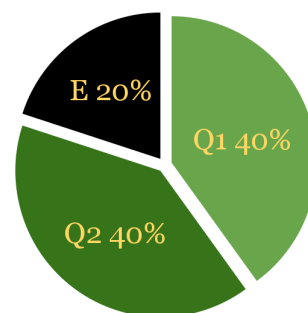
F = less than 60%

Final Grade

• Quarter 1

• Quarter 2

• Final Exam



LATE WORK POLICY:

- We want to ensure students do not fall behind. Missing assignments will be marked 0 and Late in PowerSchool through an automated sync with Canvas. Students may turn in missing assignments until the end of a unit; however, 10% each day will be deducted from their earned grade on that assignment. To confirm students are prepared to demonstrate mastery of course concepts, classwork assignments will not be accepted after the day of the unit assessment (test or project).
- Make-up work due to an excused absence will be accepted according to Wake County guidelines. **It is the student's responsibility to obtain work missed due to absences and submit on Canvas.** If necessary, students may check with me via email or request a Google Meet to discuss work they have missed. If work was assigned before an absence, such as a project, that assignment is due on the originally established date, even if it is on the day the student returns.

TALKING POINTS

- I communicate via the app TalkingPoints to maintain open communication between parents/guardians and myself. I believe that the best way to maintain the best classroom environment is to incorporate parents/guardians in what we are doing in the class as well as how their student is doing.
- Please feel free to reach out to me at any point in time during the school day, but please be patient with my response time if you message during a class or over the weekend.