



Chimacum Middle School

7/8 Grade Earth Science Syllabus

I have enclosed a business card in case you need to reach me. If you lose the paper copy just send a text to **50500** with **EducatorAI** as the message to get an e-copy of my contact information. Visit <http://educatoral.com/> for my class website.

This year's science class consists of a full year study of the Earth. Earth Science focuses on planet Earth and the energy transfers taking place within and without the earth system. This course is designed to involve students through a variety of learning techniques that emphasize inquiry and project-based learning. By participating in a variety of activities that require them to observe, experiment, communicate, and manipulated science equipment and materials students learn to solve problems, make decisions, and function as a productive and responsible global citizen.

Earth Science is a "hands-on" science course. Labs will be performed frequently throughout the year. Lab work will be calculated into the grade of each student. As much as I can I will incorporate 21st Century learning tools so that my students will learn not only Earth Science but also how to use digital tools with which they are familiar.

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR CLASS:

* Two Black, Composition Notebooks, Wide-Rule

Course Outline:

Science Inquiry	Biomes/Weather
Measurement	Lab Procedures
Density	Plate Tectonics
Earthquakes	Volcanoes
Weathering/Erosion	Rocks & Minerals

Textbook:

The Prentice Hall Science Explorer Earth Science (2001) textbook will be available to all seventh and eighth grade students in class as a resource. We will also use terrific online resources (http://educatoral.com/earth_science.html) to supplement the textbook.

Mr. González

Please sign this so that we know you read it with your child and return to your teacher. Or if you prefer you can email me or text me (please include your child's name).

Student _____ Parent Signature _____

21st Century Tools!

Dear Parents,

In an effort to help prepare my students to use the tools they love for education and someday for work, I have been reading about using 21st Century tools in the classroom (<http://delicious.com/educatoral/21stCenturyResearch>). In education students use blogs, wikis, and cell phones, among other tools, to communicate with people on different schedules or different locations by posting their ideas to a group and allowing others to comment. I use such communication to have students reflect on what they're learning so they can demonstrate that they are learning or so other students and I can see if anyone isn't getting a concept. Working with 130 students every day I can use all the help I can get. With work published on the Internet more eyes than just mine will be on our students' work.

We have been using a class blog so that our students can share their ideas and what they are learning in Science with other students around the world. As with every Internet activity that I sponsor at school, I will monitor all activities your child participates in here at school. I would request you also monitor them on the computer and cell phone at home, too.

Since I am responsible for what is posted to our blog site, I will approve any posting in the way of articles or comments on other articles. If I do not approve a posting, I will explain to your child what the reason is and give him/her an opportunity to edit the posting or to repost.

Please be assured that this is not a "myspace.com" site or activity. The web address is on classblogmeister.com, which was set up by a former Educational Technology Director in North Carolina for the purpose of teachers using it with their students. Our specific class blog site is <http://mrgonzalez.org/> and on this site you will see the assignments on the left with my class lists on the right. Clicking on your child's name or any name will take you to your child's webpage where you will see the things your child or the students in our class have written and have been approved by me. If you are looking at your child's site, your child can log into the site and look at any article that has been written and/or is awaiting approval.

Once I have your approval for your child to participate in this project, you will need to send a password back to me and I will change it to the password of your choice.

This year I am looking forward to offering other opportunities for students to participate in online discussions through forums, wikis, and even using their cell phones. I offer many opportunities for all my students to share their learning and to learn but I am not asking any family to purchase anything they don't already own. **I still accept all work on paper.** Most of the assignments we do such as blogging homework only amount to 10% of your child's overall grade in Science so not completing homework will never result in flunking Science on its own (a student will need to have at least D to flunk from not doing their blogging homework). I do encourage all students to do their homework, as it will help them learn the concepts.

I will be happy to answer any questions you might have and would appreciate your comments.

[Please choose the password for your class blog: _____]

I am **willing** to have my child try this project. _____
Parent Signature

I would like to **decline** participation in this project. _____
Parent Signature

*(If your child cannot complete our class blog assignments on the Internet here at school, at the library, from a cell phone, nor at home, then your child can always complete the assignments on paper and still receive **full credit**. Your child will only miss out on sharing ideas with other students from around the world.)*

Blogger's Contract

Acknowledging that blogging is a legitimate and authentic form of journalistic publication, student and teacher bloggers must adhere to essential principles of ethics. The free exchange and publication of information can help people in important ways. At the same time information can also harm people either intentionally or unintentionally.

Being a responsible participant in **the great online conversation**, I pledge that I will use information to:

- Honestly and joyously express the truth, and that if challenged, I will be able to prove that what I write or say is true,
- Always treat all people with respect. I will never use information to cause harm or appear to cause harm to any person or group of people, and
- Respect and protect information tools and that I will neither do any harm to a computer system, network, software, or other person's information; nor will I allow others to do harm to a computer system, network, software, or other person's information.
- I will always be accountable for the information that I produce and publish, willing and able to defend my information or acknowledge when I have made a mistake and fix it.

Teacher

Student

CHIMACUM MIDDLE SCHOOL'S

Student Lab Safety Contract

General Guidelines

1. Conduct yourself in a responsible manner at all times in the laboratory.
2. Follow all written and verbal instructions carefully. If you do not understand a direction or part of a procedure, ask the instructor before proceeding.
3. When first entering a science room, do not touch any equipment, chemicals, or other materials in the laboratory area until you are instructed to do so.
4. Keep hands away from face, eyes, mouth and body while using chemicals or preserved specimens. Wash your hands with soap and water after performing all experiments. Clean (with detergent), rinse, and wipe dry all work surfaces (including the sink) and apparatus at the end of the experiment. Return all equipment clean and in working order to the proper storage area.
5. Never return unused chemicals to their original containers.
6. When transferring reagents from one container to another, hold the containers away from your body.
7. Never remove chemicals or other materials from the laboratory area.
8. Carry glass tubing, especially long pieces, in a vertical position to minimize the likelihood of breakage and injury.
9. Never handle broken glass with your bare hands. Use a brush and dustpan to clean up broken glass. Place broken or waste glassware in the designated glass disposal container.
10. When removing an electrical plug from its socket, grasp the plug, not the electrical cord. Hands must be completely dry before touching an electrical switch, plug, or outlet.
11. Examine glassware before each use. Never use chipped or cracked glassware. Never use dirty glassware.
12. Report damaged electrical equipment immediately. Look for things such as frayed cords, exposed wires, and loose connections. Do not use damaged electrical equipment.
13. If you do not understand how to use a piece of equipment, ask the instructor for help.
14. Do not immerse hot glassware in cold water; it may shatter.
15. Heated metals and glass remain very hot for a long time. They should be set aside to cool and picked up with caution. Use tongs or heat-protective gloves if necessary.
16. Never look into a container that is being heated.
17. Do not place hot apparatus directly on the laboratory desk. Always use an insulating pad. Allow plenty of time for hot apparatus to cool before touching it.

Agreement

I, _____ (student's name) have read and agree to follow all of the safety rules set forth in this contract. I realize that I must obey these rules to insure my own safety, and that of my fellow students and instructors. I will cooperate to the fullest extent with my instructor and fellow students to maintain a safe lab environment. I will also closely follow the oral and written instructions provided by the instructor. I am aware that any violation of this safety contract that results in unsafe conduct in the laboratory or misbehavior on my part, may result in being removed from the laboratory and receiving a failing grade.

Student Signature

Parent's Signature

Date _____

FIVE POINT NOTEBOOK SCORING RUBRIC

5 Points - (a WOW product)

- all of the requirements are evident and EXCEEDED
- the product is VERY neatly done and EXTREMELY well organized
- the product shows LOTS of creativity and is colorfully illustrated
- completed on time

4 Points - (What is EXPECTED)

- all of the requirements are evident and EXCEEDED
- the product is VERY neatly done and EXTREMELY well organized
- the product shows LOTS of creativity and is colorfully illustrated
- completed on time

3 Points - (Almost What is EXPECTED)

- the requirements are evident (maybe 1 or 2 are missing)
- the product is neatly done and organized
- the product shows some creativity and is illustrated
- completed on time

2 Points - (Sort of What is EXPECTED)

- the requirements are evident (maybe 3 or 4 are missing)
- the product is done and sort of organized
- the product shows little creativity and is illustrated
- completed on time

1 Point - (Two or More parts is missing)

- MANY of the requirements are NOT PRESENT
- the product is VERY POORLY done and POORLY organized
- the product shows little TO NO creativity and THE illustrations IS POORLY DONE
- completed on time

0 Points - (Does not meet Standards)

- Unscorable or no product