

8TH GRADE SCIENCE
COURSE PACKET

Earth Systems



Bernardsville Middle School
Ms. Malwitz

Course Description

Earth Systems is a textbook-based course designed as an introduction to Earth Science. The curriculum is presented with an interdisciplinary approach that focuses on the physical, chemical, and biological processes occurring on the Earth; interactions among the planet's four principal systems (atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and geosphere); and cycles which govern the flow of matter and energy into and out of these four principle systems. Students will gain insight into the various characteristics that make Earth unique in the known universe, the processes that have continually shaped the planet since its formation, and how man's interaction with the Earth affects our existence on the "blue planet".

Classroom Materials

You must have these every day or you will lose a point.

1. Pencil & pens
2. 3 Ring Binder used ONLY for Science
3. Highlighter

Classroom Rules

Rule #1 – RESPECT

You will respect the materials

You will respect the teacher

You will respect your classmates

You will respect yourself

Corrective Actions

You will do nothing that keeps me from teaching or your classmates from learning. If you choose to ignore this directive, actions will be taken. You may be asked to leave the classroom, stay for lunch detention, or your name will be sent to the office.

Classroom Procedures

These will make our class run smoothly!

Entering the Classroom: *You will come in, take out your notebook, and be quiet and ready to work. Do not enter the classroom until the students from the last class have left and Ms. Malwitz has invited you in. There may be instructions on the board, which you must complete right away.*

Leaving Your Seat: *During instruction time, you will not get out of your seat unless you are given permission. If you need to get out of your seat you will raise your hand and use the following signals: 1 finger up – bathroom, 2 fingers up – a tissue, 3 fingers up – a drink, and 4 fingers up – sharpen pencil. If you leave the room, for a drink or the bathroom, you must sign out.*

Dismissing the Class: *I dismiss the class, not the bell. I will not release you until everyone is in his or her seat, tables are clean and materials are put away, and you are quiet.*

Supply Station: *There are materials you can use but they must stay organized. Please leave it as you found it.*

Eating: *There will be no eating or chewing gum in classroom.* If you are caught with gum, you will lose a point. You will get one warning and after that your name will be sent to Mr. Kelly and you will be given detention.

Substitutes: If I am absent, you are expected to be on your best behavior! The substitute has complete authority. If there happens to be a problem, the consequence will be doubled when I return!

Fire & Safety Drills: Please be on your best behavior during fire and safety drills. You must remain silent and listen to my instructions.

Group Work: We will be working in groups a lot in this class! The groups will be assigned and may be changed by myself.

Notes Packet: For each unit, you will be given a Notes Packet, which will be your main source of information for each chapter and will be your study guide. These will be printed on colored paper and should be saved all year. You may have an open-notes test at the end of the year for which you can use your notes packet, so you must save them.

Course Notebooks: You must have a 3-ring binder just for Science. Anything that is important and should be saved all year will be on colored paper. These should be in your binder at all times. We will do notebook cleanouts at the end of each unit so don't throw anything away until you are instructed to do so. Binders will be organized using a table of contents and will be collected for a notebook grade.

Work Station: There will be extra copies of the handouts at the **Work Station**. There will also be a shelf for your class period, where you can hand in items or where items may be returned to you. Papers with no names will receive no credit unless they are claimed.

Absences: *If you missed an assignment for an absence, you are responsible to find out what you missed.* You can talk to me or a classmate, or check online. If it is not made up, it will be a zero. You have two days for every day absent. If you know you are going to be absent, let me know in advance and I will do my best to prepare you. It is your responsibility to make up any missed work.

Homework Policy: Homework will be assigned a few days each week and is vital for review information and to practice what we learned in class. It will always be written on the board, and is usually on the class webpage. There may be quizzes where you can use your homework as a guide, so do a good job! *Homework that is not completed cannot be made up, unless it's missed because of an absence.* If it is not made up in the appropriate amount of time, you will be given a zero.

Grading Policy

I expect you to try your hardest and you'll earn your grade based on the work that you do!

Grades will be based on a point value system:

Student Total Points/Total Possible Points

For example – You earn 450 points out of 500 possible points so...

$$450/500 = 90\% = A-$$

Grades will be assigned by the standards in your student handbook.

Grades are Made Up Of: Unit Tests, Quizzes, Notebook Quizzes, Homework, Class Activities, Lab Reports, Group Work, Special Projects, Class Participation and Preparation.

Extra Credit: There may be challenges and problems offered throughout the marking period. Extra credit will be totaled at the end of the marking period and will raise your grade if you choose to take advantage of it. These are completely optional and will be offered to all students.

How to Contact Ms. Malwitz

My door is always open!

For students – I will be available before school or after school by appointment for extra help, or have questions about assignments. *I promise I will be available and will do whatever I can to help you!*

For parents - My email address is [**cmalwitz@shsd.org**](mailto:cmalwitz@shsd.org) . I will check my emails every day and will do my best to get in touch with you within 24 hours.

LAB SAFETY

Before you begin a lab...

1. Keep your work area clean and uncluttered. Store personal items in the designated areas. Bring only necessary work items to the lab spaces.
2. Tie back long hair and remove dangling jewelry. Roll up sleeves and secure loose clothing.
3. Do not touch materials or equipment until told to do so by your instructor.
4. Read all parts of an investigation before you begin work. Follow directions completely. Always ask your instructor if you are unsure of a procedure. Always think about what you plan to do before acting.

While you are working...

1. Treat all lab materials and equipment with care—they are expensive and precisely made. It costs both time and money to replace damaged or lost materials and equipment.
2. Only one person per lab pair or group may leave their lab station at a time—this includes retrieving or returning lab materials.
3. Never eat, drink, chew gum, or apply cosmetics in the classroom or laboratory. Do not store food or beverages in the lab work area.
4. Never run, push others, play, or fool around in the laboratory area or the classroom.
5. Keep all lab materials and equipment away from the edges of the lab tables.
6. Never do an investigation without your instructor's supervision. Never perform your own experiment without your instructor's permission.
7. Never taste a mineral or rock sample unless directed to do so by the instructor.
8. Use care when using chemicals: Never smell a chemical directly; never taste a chemical. Keep all chemicals away from your face and skin.
9. Never reach over or touch a heat source. Do not look directly at a light source. Keep both hair and clothing away from heat and light sources.
10. Turn off water and electrical equipment when not in use.

In an emergency...

1. Report all accidents, spills, and broken equipment immediately to your instructor. Do not attempt clean up or repair.
2. If chemicals get in your eye, immediately flush your eyes with water for 15 minutes. Report the incident to your instructor as soon as possible.
3. If chemicals get on your skin, rinse the exposed area under running water for several minutes and notify your teacher.
4. In the event of a fire, notify your instructor and clear out of the area.
5. If your clothing catches fire—stop, drop, and roll.

When finished working...

1. Clean up the laboratory space upon completion of the exercise. This includes the returning equipment and materials to their appropriate places and placing stools underneath the lab tables.
2. Return to your assigned seat—do not interfere in any way with students that are still working. Begin your lab report or the post lab assignment.

Science & Safety Contract

Student

I have read and understand all the classroom policies and expectations of Ms. Malwitz's science class. By signing this contract, I promise to follow the expectations of the class. I understand that I am responsible for my own behavior and my own success in this class. I have read and understand all the safety rules for the science classroom and will be on my best behavior during science class and lab activities.

Print Student Name

Student's Signature

Parent

My son or daughter has gone over the classroom procedures and expectations for science with me. I understand my student is responsible for his or her own success in this class, but I will do what I can to help them be successful. I will contact Ms. Malwitz if there are problems or issues, or anything she can help with.

Print Parent/Guardian Name(s)

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Parent/Teacher Communication

Please enter the phone number(s) that I can use to get in touch with you:

Please enter an email address that I can use to contact you:
