

2015-2016 Science 9 Syllabus

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Course Description

This course focuses on the major science concepts outlined in the New Jersey State Science Standards for curriculum development. This course will be divided into the following seven units:

- Unit 1: Oceanography
- Unit 2: Geology
- Unit 3: Earth's Surface
- Unit 4: Plate Tectonics
- Unit 5: Earth's History
- Unit 6: Astronomy
- Unit 7: Meteorology

I am enthusiastically looking forward to an exciting, challenging year. I plan to work with you as your partner and guide you through Science 9. I hope you will attack this course with a serious, positive, mature, intense attitude. The study of Earth Science should be both fun and fascinating!

Course Goals

1. To provide students with a good college-preparatory introductory science course. Part of that is fulfilling the time commitment for studying/homework.
2. To prepare students well for standardized tests by helping students acquire the necessary content information and training students in exam strategies and essay writing skills.
3. To help students develop a conceptual framework for modern science and to help students gain an appreciation of science as a process.
4. To help students develop an understanding for the relationship between biology, chemistry, and physics in the framework of Earth Science.

Two-Inch Binder

Students must purchase a 2" 3-ring binder that is to be used solely for this Science 9 course. The binder must contain 7 sections that are separated by dividers. The dividers must be labeled with the titles of the 7 units (Oceanography, Geology, Earth's Surface, Plate Tectonics, Earth's History, Astronomy, Meteorology).

THE BINDER MUST BE SET UP IN THIS MANNER. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS. FOLDERS, SPIRAL NOTEBOOKS, ETC. WILL NOT BE GRADED DURING NOTEBOOK CHECKS!

Textbook, Materials, and Online Lecture Notes

Students are required to bring their binder and pens to class on a daily basis. Students are not allowed to go to their locker during class. In most instances, it is not necessary to bring the textbook to class.

The textbook will be used in conjunction with a variety of other instructional tools throughout the year. Students will be responsible for reading assigned textbook chapters. Articles, labs, and other resources will supplement the textbook.

Additionally, students are REQUIRED to print lecture notes from www.zunick.com and bring them to class PRIOR to the beginning of each chapter.

Grading

Marking period grades will be determined according to the following point values:

- Quizzes = 100 points (per chapter)
- Mini-Projects = 25 points (per chapter)
- Notebook Check/Homework/Classwork = 10-20 points (per chapter)

There will also be one extra credit assignment per chapter, worth up to 5 points. The assignment will be posted on www.zunick.com.

Make certain that all assignments, reports, and evaluations are completed on time. Late work will only be accepted (with a grade penalty) with prior permission from the teacher. Please note that certain assignments will not be accepted late for any reason.

Students who miss a class for any reason will be responsible for making up all work before the next scheduled class. Students who are absent on the day an assignment is due must email the work to Mr. Zunick by the beginning of the class period. Work submitted after that time will be counted as a late assignment. Students who are absent for any reason on the day of a test or quiz will take a different version of the test or quiz.

Each marking period counts for 25% of the year grade.

Academic Dishonesty / Rules

Students are expected to do their own work. Any copying of work will result in no credit (a zero) for the assignment for all individuals involved. There are *NO EXCEPTIONS* to this policy. Please note that it will be nearly impossible for a student to pass for the marking period if he or she receives a “zero” on a quiz as a result of cheating.

All RMHS rules and regulations are in effect in this class. For example, cell phones, iPods, and other technological devices will be confiscated if they are out for *ANY REASON* in class. There is also a “ZERO-TOLERANCE” policy for insubordination.