

The Living Earth

Class Expectations

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The Living Earth is a high school graduation requirement class, and it meets the A-G requirements for a college prep lab science class. Our units of study will include Early Earth, Macromolecules needed for Life, Energy Transformation (Chemosynthesis, Photosynthesis and Cellular Respiration), Structure and Function (Cell Reproduction, Protein Synthesis, Homeostasis and Genetics) Evolution, Ecology, and Human Impact. Earth Science standards will be embedded into each unit of study as proposed by the NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) Framework <https://www.nextgenscience.org/>.

Your enjoyment and success in this class depends on the observations of a few guidelines. Be aware that extra help on all aspects of this course is available.

CLASSROOM RULES: (These rules are in addition to school rules)

1. You are expected to be in your assigned seat and prepared to work when the bell rings or a late will be given.
 - a. 4th late = 15 minute detention
 - b. 5th late = 30 minute detention & student-teacher conference
 - c. 6th late = Parent Contact & 50 minute detention
 - d. Failure to show up for any of the above teacher assigned detention will result in increase consequence to the next level/class suspension.
2. You are expected to bring all needed materials to class (see below).
3. California Law mandates that no student shall bring food into a science classroom. **NO FOOD OR DRINKS IN CLASS.**
4. All homework will be turned in at the beginning of class on the day due.
5. At the end of class the teacher will dismiss you, not the bell.
6. Any cheating will be subject to the Vista del Lago's Science Department's and the school wide academic dishonesty policy.
7. No cellphones out during instruction without approval from teacher or phone may be confiscated. All cell phones should be placed in the cell phone caddy during instructional period.
8. Homework may or maybe not assigned on a nightly basis but it is the responsibility of the student to review their warm-ups and learning targets every day. It is highly recommended to preview the unit calendar for homework assignments, quiz and test dates.

CONSEQUENCES:

1. Verbal Warning
2. Student/Teacher Conference/Detention
3. Referral to Vice Principal/Phone call home
4. Teacher suspension with parent conference

GRADING POLICY: Your grade is based on a weighted point system, with each assignment worth a certain number of points. The total number of points that you have earned will be divided by the total number of points possible to determine your percentage. Grades will be assigned according to the following percentage scale:

90% and above	A	Homework	2 pts	Formative Assessments (20%)
89 – 80 %	B	Labs	10-20 pts	-Quizzes (10%)
79 – 70 %	C	Tests	30-60 pts	-HW, Labs, Classwork (10%)
69 – 55 %	D	Quizzes	10-30 pts	Summative Assessments (80%)
54 % and below	F	Projects	30-60 pts	-Final Exam (20%) -Tests (60%)

Both formative and summative assessments will be used as tools for reporting student achievement.

1. Formative assessments are used for practice, skill development and guided instruction. Assignments that would fall under this category are homework, class work, warm-ups, notebook/binder checks, individual/group projects, labs, lab activities, and quizzes.
2. Summative assessments are used as a final measure of student learning at the end of a unit or period of instruction. Assignments that would fall under this category are unit tests, and midterm/final exams.

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RETAKE POLICY:

Test retakes allow students with an additional opportunity to demonstrate mastery for a unit of study.

- The retake grade will replace the original exam grade in the gradebook (even if the retake grade is lower than the original exam grade).
- The last exam of each semester cannot be retaken due to timing constraints. Final exams cannot be retaken.
- Retakes must be completed in one sitting – students will not be given extra time if they are late to the retake or if they do not understand the content well enough to finish the retake during the allotted time.
- Students will retake the learning targets that they missed on the original exam.
- Any student who is caught cheating will use his/her one retake opportunity to retake the exam he/she cheated on and they will receive no more than 50% of their retake score.
- To be eligible for the retake, students must have completed all homework on time (unless they have made prior arrangements with their teacher). Students must also meet the requirements of his/her teacher (this may include, but is not limited to test corrections, reflections, additional assignments, tutoring, etc.).
- Retakes will occur before (7:00 am) or after school (3:10 pm) - not during instructional time or flextime. The teacher will announce/post the retake dates and students must make arrangements to complete the retake during one of the provided times (there are no special exceptions for athletic practices, club meetings, appointments, etc.). It is the student's responsibility to sign-up for a retake in advance. If a student does not show up for their scheduled retake they will lose the opportunity for their re-take..
- Students must complete the retake within one week of receiving their original test score.

It is extremely important that students study for the retake test. This might include tutoring, test corrections, reviewing old quizzes, completing additional assignments, etc.

TEXTBOOK:

Textbooks will be issued at the beginning of the term and collected at the end of the term by our librarian. A class set of books are available in our classroom. A lost or damaged book is your responsibility.

MAKE-UP WORK:

1. It is your responsibility to make up the work. Please refer to the unit calendar posted on my teacher webpage for the daily agenda.
2. Any work/tests/quizzes assigned before the student's absence or due on the day of the absence is due the first day the student returns to school unless other arrangements have been made.
3. For any new work assigned during the student's absence, the student has a minimum of one day for each day absent to make up the work.

TEACHER WEBPAGE:

Resources are available on the teacher web page or through Google Classroom. I will also post the unit calendar, some of the assignments, laboratory discussion questions, and projects. Please be sure to visit this site on a **regular basis**.

PowerSchool Parent Portal:

Students and parents can access individual assignments and overall class grades by going to our school website. It is recommended you visit this site on **weekly basis** to see your child's progress in biology. I will update the site regularly.

Items Recommended for this Course:

Three ring binder with dividers, college ruled binder paper, #2 pencil and blue/black pen, highlighters, ruler, colored pencils.

Organization of Class Materials:

Your teacher will provide instruction and guidance on how to organize your class work and materials. These materials will be collected and graded regularly, and organization is part of your overall grade. You must keep all of your work for the term unless otherwise instructed by the teacher.