

P O L I C I E S

HOMEWORKS

I provide students with “HOMEWORK SHEET” information every **Monday**, listing the assignment for the *entire* week. Usually, there will be one assignment (taking about 10 to 15 minutes to complete) ... always due on **THURSDAYS** of each week. Students are expected to have their completed assignment ***with them*** at the beginning of their class period on the day it is due. (I consider the responsibility of **HAVING IT THERE** actually *more important* than the act of just having completed it!) Students who don't have their completed assignment with them will lose points, and, if it becomes a chronic problem, be required to report to my room 13th periods for the purpose of getting that week's homework assignment completed. If this could cause a problem, I **URGE** students to turn their homework in ***ahead of time*** (they know on Monday what it is going to be), so that there is no chance of them leaving it somewhere and not having it on the day it is due. Parents, PLEASE help me in my efforts to develop a sense of responsibility about completing and having work ready that is assigned well ahead of time. If your child tends to forget, ask to see his Regents Earth Science HOMEWORK SHEET information each Monday night... you then will know (and can remind your child) of exactly what is due for that week.

TOPIC OUTLINE NOTES

At the beginning of each unit, I will give each student a copy of the topic outline notes. Students are expected to copy the portion of the outline notes that was covered in class that day, word-for-word, into their notebooks (***handwritten***, unless prior agreement is arrived at) sometime prior to the next day's class. In so doing, students will have a chance to review the concepts covered in class that day, and will also be assured of being able to copy the notes carefully, completely, and at their own pace. Students are ***not*** permitted to copy these notes into their notebooks **during class time**. Class time will be used for discussion and interaction involving the day's learning objective, and students should be fully attentive to and participating in these activities throughout each class period. These copied outline notes will be checked for each student on the day prior to that topic's unit exam. Failure to have it completed (or present in class) will result in a 0 grade, which will greatly harm the 5 and 10 week average. (A properly copied notebook receives a 100 score, which will go far to help with a student's grade average each term.)

QUIZZES

These are usually short, graded exercises that are completed in class. If a student is absent, it will be his/her responsibility to get the quiz made up as soon as possible, usually during a 13th period, though I have sometimes made arrangements for these to be made up while a student is in a study hall.

UNIT TESTS

These are the ***most important*** part of the course evaluation since the questions on these, usually about 30 or so covering an entire unit, will attempt to be the exact same type as will likely be found on the actual Regents examination. The best way to study for them is to ***carefully review*** the topic outline notes for the unit, as well as all quizzes and related hand-outs. ***Saving*** and reviewing these materials for unit tests, the mid-term, and the June Regents exam **is a must**. I believe that it is necessary for every Regents Earth Science student to spend ***at least 15 minutes per night*** studying what was covered in class that day. As mentioned earlier, to help students focus on this daily review at home, I expect students to copy into their notebook the portion of the topic outline that was presented that day in class. ***Please monitor this nightly studying...*** the first question that I ask of a student (and parents) if he/she starts to encounter difficulty in the course is, “Are you spending at least 15 minutes **EACH NIGHT** studying your Regents Earth Science materials and copying your topic outline notes?” Another great way for students to study is

to use the two Internet sites I have set up. One is called “**Quia**” , with review games for each unit. The other is called “**Castle Learning Online**”, which gives students sample Regents test questions on each topic. The web address for each, as well as password information for Castle Learning Online, will be printed on the HOMEWORK SHEET students receive from me each week. They also appear at the end of this letter. Book marking these sites is a must for students with Internet access at home!

If a student scores below a 65 on any unit test throughout the year, I will send a letter home to you describing what I feel went wrong (as well as suggestions for what steps might be taken for improvement in the future). Although I always go over the unit test in class and provide opportunities for students to realize their mistakes, there are no re-takes of unit tests for individual students. After the first few unit tests, I will evaluate scores to determine which students are in need of extra help. These students will be assigned (and expected to attend) weekly 13th period review sessions to go over the week’s work and to prepare for upcoming unit tests. (Of course, *any* student may voluntarily attend 13th period to review any time!)

If a student is absent for a unit test, the student will be expected to take it the **next day** that he/she returns to Regents Earth Science class. If the absence has been for *several* days prior to the exam, other arrangements will be considered.

13TH PERIOD

Students assigned to my room 13th period for whatever reason are expected to be there. Usually (depending on the circumstances), once a student REPORTS TO MY ROOM at the beginning of 13th period and has completed the work he/she owes me, I will allow him/her to report to another teacher IF the student has a pass for that teacher, or to leave the building IF he/she is a walker and is going to leave immediately, not to return. The purpose here is to prevent students from roaming the halls 13th period. If a student fails to report as assigned, a referral will be completed on that student and turned in to the office. Skipping 13th period carries with it the same consequences as skipping any other class throughout the day. If it becomes a persistent problem, then I will request a meeting with you, your child, and the school administration to determine the best way to resolve the problem.

EXTRA CREDIT REPORT

A student may do one extra credit report each 10-weeks to help out with the grade average. It must be turned in no later than the Friday prior to the close of the 10 week period, and must meet the following guidelines: 1) written on some Earth Science topic 2) written in the student’s own words 3) must be a minimum of one page, typed (or printed on a word processor) 4) at the end, it must indicate the source of the information (any credible source other than the textbook is acceptable).