

Welcome To Earth Science with Mr. Schwartz.

CONGRATULATIONS! You have just been given a wonderful gift: FOUR years of free education. Over 100 teachers are standing by to help you become a success (although they won't do it for you). Take advantage of this **FREE** opportunity. **You will never get a chance like this again!**

OUR GOALS:

1. To improve your understanding of how the world works and how it affects us (and how we affect it).
2. To improve your learning skills.
3. To save the humans!

HOW TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL YEAR:

~When you wake up in the morning, you have been *starving* for 12 hours. Eat something. Don't pass out on your desk.

~Always make sure you know what is going on in class! **Ask** questions! Take notes! Learning is not something that happens to you - it is something that you do! **You get back what you put in. You reap what you sow. You make your bed and must sleep in it. What goes around, comes around. Get the idea?**

~As strange as it might seem, **do not put off your work until 'later'**. There is never a 'later'.

~**Keep everything!** If something is important enough to be on a quiz, you can safely bet that it is important enough to be on a test! Will you have that quiz to study from? If I record your grade incorrectly, will you have the paper to show the correct score?

MY GRADING POLICY:

I use a "Total Points" scoring system. Each assignment is worth a certain number of points, based on how much work is involved. Your grade is determined by how many points **you** earn out of the total available.

Homework is essential to the learning experience. You are expected to be prepared for class every day, and that includes homework. **During the first semester, unexcused late work can be turned in the next day for 50% of the possible points.** Second semester, I will not accept late work **at all.**

Students who fail to turn in work will be given afternoon time with me (detention) to complete work. If you cut a class, you earn a **0** for that day's work.

EXPECTATIONS: I expect you to

1. Care enough to give me your best. In return, I will give you my best.
2. Be in class on time and ready to learn. I will be here waiting for you, ready to teach you.
3. Ask for help when you need it. In return, I will help you.
4. Follow all rules in the student handbook, especially those related to electronics, clothing, attendance and cheating.
5. Treat everyone, including the teacher, the way you would want to be treated.

CLASS PROCEDURES:

1. **When the bell rings you are to be in your seat, ready to work, with your notebook open. If not, you are tardy.**
2. **Every day, bring your class materials:**
 - A 3-ring binder – **not spiral bound!** There will be notebook checks.
 - A pen (blue or black) and a pencil
 - Your brain.
3. **Follow all directions carefully.** More students fail by not following directions than for any other reason.

4. Stay in your seat during class unless you have permission to get up.

If you must go to the lavatory, and with permission, take the pass. When you return, return the pass. Abuse of the privilege will result in loss of the privilege.

5. Do your homework on time.

If you don't understand something, ask a friend, ask me the next day, or else email or IM me.

If you miss class, it is **your** responsibility to find out what you missed. Check the class web page, call your friends, IM me, or as a last resort, email me. Find out what you missed *immediately!* Labs usually may be made up only after school. Quizzes and tests may be made up during your study halls or after school. **You will have one day to make up work for each day that you are absent.** Problem? Ask me. **No excuses!**

If I am absent, material that the substitute gives you will have been assigned by me. I will be grading it. You will be held accountable for the work and *behavior* exhibited during my absence, so work carefully on it in the time allowed.

Use a blue or black pen for all material to be graded. If I can't read it, you won't get credit. **Typed work** is always acceptable. Pink, red or green pen is not.

Always use first and **last names** on all work to be graded. If I do not know who you are, you won't get credit.

Feel free to **type** all assignments. Use the 'Times Roman' 12 point font, double-spaced.

Remember! Your final grade includes every point you earn, so earn lots of them.

There might occasionally be an opportunity to earn extra credit. **No one** will be given earned extra credit if they have not turned in **every** assignment, no matter what the score.

People who fail to turn in work on time will be meeting with me after school for "extra help".

Field Trips: Field trips are optional. Class work is not. If you are going to be out on a field trip, see me before you leave and get the work you will miss. Missed work must be made up immediately. You are responsible for finding out what you missed and doing it. **No excuses accepted.**

HOW TO CONTACT ME:

Before & After School: Look in room PG07 (my office) or PG08

My Free Periods: Periods 1, 2, 6. Look in room PG08 or the Portables Office.

Evenings: **Email:** jon_schwartz@whps.org. You should always feel free to contact me.

AIM: HallEarthScience.

My web site: All sorts of information: <http://www.jschwartz.com>

Your class page, with assignments, worksheets, and grades:

<http://period3.jschwartz.com>

<http://period7.jschwartz.com>

<http://period4.jschwartz.com>

<http://period8.jschwartz.com>

The same rules will be applied equally to all students.

Whether you are an A student or a D student, whether you love this class or hate it, love science or hate it, love me or hate me, if you want help you will get it.

Whether you are an A student or a D student, whether you love this class or hate it, love science or hate it, love me or hate me, if you violate a rule, you will get the same consequences as anyone else.

10 Serious Problems and How to Solve Them:

1. I was sick, and I don't know if there is work to do.

Go to your class web page, read what is there, download the assignment and do it. Or call a friend. See if I am online as HallEarthScience. Email me. I will not chase you for missing work. After 1 week, a grade of ABSENT becomes a grade of ZERO. **You are responsible, not me. Do the work.**

2. My parents took me out of school for

See number 1. **Do the work.**

3. My computer is broken.

There are computers available in the school library, in some classrooms, at the public library, at a friend's house. **Use a pen! Do the work.**

4. My printer is broken.

Attach the work to email and send it to me at jon_schwartz@whps.org. Save it to a thumb drive and print it in the library or classroom. Burn the work onto a CD. Write it in **pen. Do the work.**

5. I can't get to the internet from home. My connection is broken.

See number 3. **Do the work.**

6. I do not have any study halls, so I can't get to the library.

The library opens at 7 AM, and is open after school. The public libraries are open at night. **Do the work.**

7. I have practice or something else so very important to do after school, I can't stay after school.

No you don't. You will be given a late pass to practice after you make up your work. Your coach **will** accept my late pass. **Do the work.**

8. I did the homework, but I left it at home.

Bring it in tomorrow. At least you will be able to earn extra credit. **Do the work.**

9. I can't do homework, because I have a mosquito bite, or some other serious personal issue.

Extra help is available. Come and see me. We will work out a plan. **Do the work.**

10. I do not understand what we are doing in class.

Pay attention in class. Take notes in class. **Ask questions in class.**

If you still do not understand, **talk to me** after class, IM me, email me. If you are trying, **I will help you.**

When is doing homework with a friend NOT cheating? When you work together, discuss the work together, then write - in your own words - your own answer to the question. If I get two papers with the same words, you each get ½ credit. **Do your own work.**

Solutions, Not Excuses!

Introducing Earth Science with Mr. Schwartz: Study skills. How to take notes. How to use the textbook.

Latitude and longitude and mapping of hurricanes.

The Habit of Skepticism (Trust, but Verify!) and critical analysis of web sites. Web safety.

The Flow of Energy Through the Earth:

Density: What density is, and why density is important in geology and meteorology

Energy: What energy is. Forms of energy. Transmission of energy. The electromagnetic spectrum. Why the sky is blue.

Plate Tectonics: Internal structure of the Earth. How the surface of the Earth changes. Where the Hawaiian Islands come from and where they are going. What Connecticut has been doing for the past 600 million years.

Earthquakes and Mountain Building: Causes. How to locate the epicenter and measure the destructive force. The different ways in which mountains form. Why we could not exist without earthquakes.

Volcanoes: How volcanoes form. Different types of volcanoes. How they affect us. Why we need them.

Weathering and Erosion: Types of weathering. Types of erosion. Frost, wind, water, acid rain, waves.

Minerals and Rocks: What minerals are. How plate tectonics and weathering create a cycle of rocks. The three major groupings of rocks. How to read the stories in rock layers.

The Flow of Energy Through the Atmosphere:

Energy and Phase Change: Solid to liquid to vapor and back. How energy is involved in phase change. How it affects our lives.

Air Pressure, Wind, and Weather: What causes changes in air pressure. How differences in air pressure create wind and weather. Wind patterns: local, continental and global. Sun showers and rainbows. How to predict the weather.

Water in the Sky: The water cycle. Dew point and humidity. Types of clouds and how they are created. Precipitation.

Topographic Maps: How the shape of the Earth is displayed on maps. How maps can help us control pollution.

Watersheds and Wetlands: What a watershed is. Why wetlands are important. Why there is a shortage of safe drinking water in the world. Different ways in which we pollute our water and what you can do about it.

The Atmosphere: The major gases in the atmosphere. Major greenhouse gases, how they work, and why we need them (but not too much of them). Why we divide the atmosphere into layers, the names and properties of each layer.

The Human Footprint – What We Are Doing to the Land:

Urban Sprawl: What it is. Why it happened. What you can do about it

Brownfields and Landfills What a brownfield is. What Ethylene, Trichloroethylene, Dioxins, Agent Orange, and the Superfund are and why they are important. The meaning of the events at Love Canal. How to deal with trash safely.

Polymers and Plastics - Problems and Possibilities: What natural and synthetic polymers are, what most polymers are made of and how they are put together. Advantages and disadvantages of using plastics. Nanocarbons.

Humans and Energy - How We Can Use Energy Without Causing Damage:

Climate and Climate Change: What climate is, and the factors that create different climates. Why and how the climate has changed since the Earth was created 4.6 billion years ago. How human activities are increasing the rate of climate change, and the consequences of this increased rate. What you can do about it.

Air Pollution: What the 5 primary air pollutants are, how they are created, and how they harm us. What photochemical smog is, how it is created, and what it can do to us. What a temperature inversion is and how it is created. Which chemicals destroy ozone in the stratosphere. What an acid is, and how we measure acidity. The causes and effects of acid rain. What you can do about it.

Sources of Energy: Review what energy is. How we measure energy. How we create electricity. Renewable and non-renewable energy sources. Different ways in which we can produce usable energy, and the advantages and disadvantages of each related to resources and air pollution.