

MONTE VISTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

SCI 056 Earth Science- Sara Blomquist

Course Syllabus

Course Description:

An introduction to the scientific method, as well as an exploration of the key topics of earth science including, but not limited to, earth's structure, water systems, earth's atmosphere, and the solar system. Students will learn facts, principles, concepts, and skills through project based learning, research, discussions, and hands-on methods. Throughout the course of the class, students will investigate and discover the delicate and intricate patterns of Earth's unique characteristics and how God, the Creator, shaped the world through time and purpose.

Curricular Mapping:

In this course, students will utilize prior knowledge of earth science in order to gain understanding about more specific topics related to the field. Students will be investigating closer the unique properties and characteristics of Earth's matter, patterns, and principles. Students will be given responsibility for projects and research that requires a higher level of understanding than in elementary courses. A large portion of this course revolves around the scientific method of inquiry, where students will be developing critical thinking in order to solve problems. Methods of classification and real life exploration will prepare students for future earth science studies.

School Objectives/ESLRs (Expected Schoolwide Learning Results)

For 2014-2015, we are emphasizing our Technology ESLR, as we provide innovative educational programs that prepare our students for success in life. The Technology ESLR says:

A graduate of Monte Vista Christian School:

1. Is technologically fluent in current, mainstream computing technologies.
2. Demonstrates comfort using and adapting to new technologies and operating computing hardware and software.
3. Demonstrates responsible digital citizenship, in particular with respect to safety, ownership rights, collaboration, publication, privacy, security and digital footprints.
4. Demonstrates competence in transmitting digital data without the use of paper.
5. Demonstrates competence in producing digital products, such as but not limited to notes, essays, projects, and presentations.
6. Demonstrates on-line research competence to find answers and solve problems in real time scenarios.

A full set of ESLRs is available on our website at [www.mvcs.org/ESLRS](http://www.mvcs.org/ESLRS)

Course Objectives:

Upon the successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the steps of the scientific method.
2. Identify and describe the earth's layers.
3. Compare and contrast the results of different types of plate tectonic movement.
4. Explain the cause and results of earthquakes and volcanoes.
5. Classify different rocks into igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic.
6. Explain the process of rock formation.
7. Explain the water cycle.
8. Design a model home that will withstand erosion.
9. Compare and contrast theories of the creation of Earth.
10. Differentiate the different layers of the atmosphere.
11. Classify different types of clouds.
12. Differentiate between Earth's rotation and revolution around the sun.
13. Develop a plan to help preserve at least one of Earth's natural resources.
14. Describe the cycle of the moon in relation to the Earth and Sun.
15. Identify the planets in the Solar System and describe their characteristics.
16. Participate and work with other students in a project based learning format.

Texts:

Your necessary digital texts for this class are part of a "Required Course Materials Fee" thru the EdTech bookstore. This bundle has your students schedule preloaded and the bulk of their required course materials already prepackaged for you. You were sent an email on 7/25/16 with detailed instructions for purchasing and activation. Please note: some courses may require additional purchases outside of the course materials fee.

Course Outline and Requirements:

1. Introduction to the Scientific Method
2. Layers of the Earth
3. Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes, and Volcanoes
4. Minerals & Rocks
5. Water Systems
6. Weathering & Erosion
7. Earth's History
8. Atmosphere
9. Weather & Climate
10. Natural Resources
11. Moon
12. Solar System

There will be in-class activities, labs, tests, projects, and research. The student will work both individually and with a group. Students will be evaluated using formative and summative assessments.

## Grading:

All student grades will be weighted as follows:

1. 55% Tests/Projects
2. 45% Classwork/Homework

## Middle School Grading Policy

### Grading Scale

A standard percentage scale is used school-wide to determine grades. This ensures a standard of excellence toward which each student may strive. The following is the scale used:

Grade	%	GPA Value
A	93-100	4.0
A-	90-92	4.0
B+	87-89	3.0
B	83-86	3.0
B-	80-82	3.0
C+	77-79	2.0
C	73-76	2.0
C-	70-72	2.0
D+	67-69	1.0
D	63-66	1.0
D-	60-62	1.0
F	59-below	0.0

### Reporting of Student Progress.

Each evening parents will receive an e-mail with their child's grades up to that day (Gradebook Summary). This is an indicator of your child's progress. All grades are updated and reported every four and a half weeks as well as every nine weeks (quarter grades). A semester grade is issued after 18 weeks and is an average of two quarters. The semester grade is what is reported on the student's transcript.

## Assignments and Assessments

Grades are composed of assignments and assessments. Assignments make up 45% of the grade and include homework, class work and small quizzes. Assessments make up 55% of the grade and include tests, quizzes and larger projects. Students taking high school courses with a high school teacher will have a separate grading policy from the middle school and parents will need to check the course syllabus for that teacher's grading policy.

## Academic Achievement

Grades will reflect academic achievement, and the factors to determine these grades are assignments and assessments. Behavior, attendance, and effort are nonacademic factors and will be communicated through other means such as, e-mail and phone calls.

## Guidelines for Grading

Grading will not be done on a curve. Grades are based on the student's demonstration of knowledge and skill scored against a set of established criteria.

Grading is based on content, and while we do encourage neatness our measurement is based on the understanding of the assignment or assessment.

Grading will be based on individual achievement, and although we encourage cooperative learning strategies as an excellent teaching technique our focus is on the demonstrated proficiency of the individual student.

Extra credit assignments are not included in our grading. The students are expected to demonstrate mastery in the original assignments and assessments. Challenge points may be offered to students by teachers to encourage them to go above and beyond the requirements of a designated assignment.

## Make-Up Work and Late Work

Our grading policy allows for make-up work for excused absences. Students with excused absences will have the same number of days to complete missed assignments

and tests as the number of days they were absent. For example, a student with two days of excused absence will have two days to complete all make-up work. It is the student's responsibility to determine what work or tests were missed and to make arrangements with the teacher to make up the work. A student absent on the day of a test must be prepared to take the test upon his/her return. Students are expected to turn work in on time. Students who turn in late assignments will have until the first day of the next school week to turn in their homework or assignment for partial credit. After this time period has passed no credit will be given for late homework or assignments. During the last five days of the quarter late work will not be accepted so that teachers may finalize their grades.

### Class Policies:

The following class policies are non-negotiable. Please see the instructor if you have any concerns with your ability to follow these policies.

1. Attendance: Students are expected to be in class daily. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get the class work and homework that you missed. You will have one day for every day you are out to make up your work.
2. Tardiness: Students are expected to be in their seats with all materials needed when the bell rings otherwise they will be marked "Tardy".
3. Participation: Students are expected to be active listeners and participate during class discussions and team activities. Students will receive citizenship points for every unit that will merit these skills.

### School Policies:

Students are subject to all academic policies of the school as printed in the Academic Catalog and Student Handbook. Furthermore, it is each student's responsibility to read and follow all academic policies of the school.

### Tips for the Students:

Include items which will help students with matters unique to your method of instruction or to the course you are teaching.

- Arrive to class prepared to learn.
- Don't be afraid to try and fail.
- Wear appropriate clothes for experiments when advised by the teacher.
- Check the online course every school day.

### iPad Apps:

Students will need the following free apps:

- Educreations Interactive Whiteboard by, *Educreations, Inc.*
- eClicker Audience by, *Big Nerd Ranch, Inc.*
- Quakefeed by *Artisan Global, LLC*
- EarthNOW by *Jet Propulsions Laboratory*
- NASA Visualization Explorer (Also known as NASA Viz) by *NASA*



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Terms of Agreement

Terms:

This syllabus is a contract between the instructor and the student with a parent/guardian witness. As an instructor of this course, I am committed to abiding by this syllabus. As a student of this course, you also are expected to abide by this syllabus. By signing this Terms of Agreement, you are affirming that you have read and agree to abide by the guidelines, policies and agreements stated in this syllabus.

As a parent/guardian, I have read and agree to support this student in an effort to follow the guidelines, policies and agreements stated in this syllabus.

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Parent Signature

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Date

As a student of this course, I have read and agree to abide by the guidelines, policies and agreements stated in this syllabus.

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Student Signature

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Date