**A Letter from the Editor:**

Dear Students,

Welcome to 10th grade STEM Earth Science. I hope you enjoyed your summer and got plenty of rest. Now you should be ready for some exciting educational experiences. I am looking forward to working with you this year.

STEM Earth Science is not like your typical science classes you have taken in the past. This class will incorporate science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) into each of the lessons to provide a unique learning experience. Additionally, you will be exposed to the model-based inquiry style of teaching that involves creation of and continued enhancement of your ideas regarding science concepts. In order for this to be successful, I must ask for your cooperation. I will ask for your input frequently, and if you have any ideas you may feel free to share them at any time.

Please raise any questions or concerns at an appropriate time during class or check my schedule by the classroom door to reach me during the school day. In addition, you can reach me through school e-mail. However, please note that I cannot guarantee immediate response to your e-mail. Therefore, questions or comments that require immediate attention (i.e. homework concerns) should be addressed before you leave school.

Please read the rest of this introductory handout carefully and share it with your parents, as it will provide you with an overview of the course. You will learn about rules, procedures, grading policies, and course objectives; all of which will be helpful to you throughout the year.

I wish you much success this year and I know that you will achieve your goals if you approach this class with enthusiasm and dedication.

Sincerely

Mr. Tarbert

**Guidelines for Student Conduct:**

**The student will be responsible to:**

* create a positive, comfortable learning environment in the classroom and on electronic classroom forums
* respect every member of the class by using appropriate language, by paying attention when another person is speaking, and by raising his/her hand to speak.

**Penalty Box**

Students who do not listen to the directions or obtain make-up work will not receive credit for missed assignments. Late work will not be accepted.

Students who are not in their seats when the bell rings will be marked late. Additionally, you will miss important information and lose credit for assignments.

Students who disrupt the learning of others or refuse to follow directions given by the teacher are subject to disciplinary action outlined by school policy. Disciplinary measures are also displayed on the classroom wall.

* complete all assignments on time and to best of his/her ability.
* obtain and complete make-up work on time – **5 days from your return to school.**
* listen to and follow all directions given by the teacher, asking for clarification if he/she does not understand the directions. (NOTE: refusal to follow directions constitutes interference with the educational process and will result in disciplinary action).
* come to class on time and be in his/her seat when the bell rings.
* bring his/her textbook, notebook, a writing implement, a pen AND pencil, and any other required materials (as assigned by the teacher) to class each day.
* leave ALL food, drink, backpacks, outerwear, cellphones in his/her locker.
* LEARN and THINK independently as well as cooperatively.

**Objectives**

**After successfully completing this course students will be able to:**

1. develop scientific concepts through posing questions, seeking answers, and developing solutions
2. use a variety of technologies as a tool for learning.
3. use and understand the importance of math in scientific investigations
4. identify and group Earth phenomena through observations of our own environment.
5. recognize historical development of ideas in science
6. identify the relationships between science, technology, engineering, and math as well as other areas of learning.
7. use their gained knowledge to address real-life problems and make informed decisions.
8. understand the role of humanity in environment we live in.
9. collaborate by sharing ideas, examples and insights productively and respectfully.
10. use research skills to access, interpret and apply information from a variety of print and non-print resources.

**Grading Policy**

Your grade will reflect, in large measure, your effort in this class. Topic tests will be graded with the same standards used while grading the regents exam. When you successfully complete a lab and receive credit for a test question, you have mastered the concept.

Assignments are weighted as shown;

* 50% - Labs
* 30% - Homework/class work
* 20% - Tests, quizzes, exams

Grading Scale

* A = 90 – 100
* B = 80 – 89
* C = 70 – 79
* D = 65 - 69

*Continued on back*

**Grading Policy Continued**

* The homework/class work grade is based only on assignments turned in on time. Late assignments may be turned in up to 5 days past the due date for a 50% reduction in the grade.
* The **laboratory grades** account for the largest portion of your marking period grade. Doing lab work is one of the most effective ways to learn science. NYS requires students to successfully complete 30 40 minute labs (1200 minutes) to pass the course and sit for the regents exam. This course will consist a minimum of 15 80 minute lab for a total of 1200 minutes. In order to be counted as a successful lab for NYS, students must participate in the lab experiment complete all portions of the lab. If a student is absent from a lab they **must** complete the experiment at a time to be determined by the teacher and student. Lab reports will be graded according to the rubric students receive in class. If a student receives less than an 80% on the lab report, he/she will have multiple opportunities to complete corrections to receive a maximum of 80%.
* Exam, test, and quiz grades will be based on questions from old regents exams as well as work completed in the classroom. This includes work completed in laboratory, homework, and class assignments.
* Students’ final grades will be the average of seven grades; six marking period grades and the final exam.
* To receive regents credit you must pass BOTH the course and the regents exam.
* Grades will be updated on Parent Portal on a weekly basis.

**Disciplinary Policy**

If a student is unable to meet the classroom expectations;

1. The student and teacher will meet to discuss the unsolved problem an identify mutual concerns
2. The student and teacher will develop a plan to resolve the unsolved problem
3. Parent/school administration involvement will occur when necessary

Infractions of a more serious nature will result in immediate write-up and parent notification.

**Remind**

To help parents and students keep up to date with assignments and projects, I use a program called Remind to send out alerts. This program allows my phone number and the phone numbers of the recipients to remain anonymous. Details can be found at this web address (<https://www.remind.com/>). Signing up for this is optional but highly recommended. Instructions for you to begin receiving alerts are listed below.

To receive text message alerts

* send the message @mrtarbe to (929)244-4613

You can also download the app at the Apple app store or Google Play

To receive email alerts visit the following site

* www.remind.com/join/mrtarbe

**Text Books**

EarthComm

(Can be accessed online) <http://ebook.iat.com/>

Username: odessa Password: Earth1

Reviewing Earth Science the Physical Setting, by Tom McGuire

**Please sign and return to Mr. Tarbert by Friday September 9, 2016**

Student Name (Print):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Gaurdian Name (Print):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Gaurdian Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_