To: Parents/Guardians

From: Mr. Tarbert

Re: STEM Earth Science Policies

Date: September 7, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am honored to have the opportunity to educate your child on the importance of Earth science and its role in our community. During the year we will cover many topics including geology, astronomy, meteorology, oceanography, their relationships to one-another and science as a whole. It is my goal to provide students with a broad overview of the Earth sciences and the importance of understanding their influence on our society. The NYS Physical Setting/Earth Science core curriculum can be obtained by visiting *http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/mst/pub/earthsci.pdf*.

Throughout the year I will challenge students by implementing model-based inquiry teaching techniques to bolster problem solving and critical thinking skills. Model-based inquiry instruction is a student-centered and teacher-guided instructional approach that engages students in investigating real world questions within a broad thematic framework. Research has shown that teaching through inquiry produces higher achieving students who will continue to grow long after they have finished high school. Students will also be responsible for maintaining scientific notebooks that will be kept in the classroom. The notebooks will be used to record observations, make hypotheses and develop experiments to test their hypotheses, evaluate the results of their experiments, and apply what they have learned to local, regional, or global issues.

Student grades will be calculated from laboratory assignments, homework, classwork and exams/test/quizzes. Grades will be updated on School Tool a minimum of once per week so you can monitor your child’s success. Final grades will be the average of the six marking period grades and the final exam.

Assignments are weighted as shown;

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

Grading Scale

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

The State Education Department requires a minimum of 30 labs @ 40 minutes (1200 minutes total) to be successfully completed by a student to be seated for the regents Earth science exam.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Mr. Tarbert

Earth Science

OMCS

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