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 see just how awesome the world is.
4. To save the humans!

HOW TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL YEAR:

~ 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 <u>never</u> 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 learning. You are expected to be prepared for class every day, and that includes homework. During the first quarter, unexcused late work can be turned for a 10% per day penalty. During the second quarter, unexcused late work can be turned for a 50% penalty. After that, work not turned in on time earns a 0. 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.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS:

We have only 47 minutes together each day to cover everything that you need to learn this year. Every second is precious. So…. I expect you to

1. Be in class on time. When the bell rings, be in your seat with your notebook open.
2. Save your important personal conversations for your own time. Don't keep everyone else from doing our jobs.
3. Keep your phones off and on top of your desk. You may use your phone to take photos of the whiteboard or as a calculator. If your phone makes a noise during class, or if you use it for anything not directly related to class I will confiscate it and you will have to retrieve it from your Assistant Principal.
4. Care enough to give me your best. In return, I will give you my best.
5. Ask for help when you need it. In return, I will help you.
6. Follow all rules in the student handbook, especially those related to clothing, attendance and ***cheating***.
7. Treat everyone, including the teacher, the way you would want to be treated.
8. Understand that the only one responsible for your success is you.

CLASS PROCEDURES:

1. **When the bell rings** you are to be in your seat, ready to work, with your notebook open.
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.

If you miss class, **it is <u>your</u> responsibility to find out what you missed**. Check the class web page, call your friends, 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.

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 and marker are 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.

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

There will occasionally be an opportunity to earn extra credit, up to 8% of the quarter grade. **No one** will be given earned extra credit if they have not turned in **every** assignment, even if late, 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 the Portables Office or PG08

My Free Periods: Periods 2, 3, 5. Look in room PG08 or the Portables Office.

Evenings: **Email**: jon_schwartz@whps.org. I will respond to your questions, but not after 8:00PM

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

Your class page, with assignments, worksheets, and grades: http://students.jschwartz.com

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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 me or hate me, if you want help you will get it. If you violate a rule, you will get the same consequences as anyone else.

How to Get an A on Your Tests:

1) Pay attention in class. (Don't understand something? ASK!)
2) Take notes, especially drawings. (Don't understand something? ASK!)
3) Read your notes every day. (Don't understand something? ASK the next day or email me!)
4) In your mind, or with a friend, try to explain the material to someone else. Draw diagrams. (Don't understand something? ASK the next day or email me!)
5) Think about what I might ask on a test - Ask yourself short answer questions, NOT just vocabulary!
6) The night before a quiz or test, get together with a friend and quiz each other - Ask short answer questions, NOT just vocabulary!
7) When the test is returned, go over all of the answers to see what you understood and what you need help with. Nothing may be forgotten! (Don't understand something? ASK the next day or email me!)

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. 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. Find out what you missed and **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. I will give you 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. You will still be able to earn extra credit. **Do the work.**

9. I can't do homework, because I don't understand it, I'm not sure how to do it, or I have some serious personal issue.

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

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, and you WILL pass!

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 credits. **Do your own work**.

Solutions, Not Excuses!

Only the Donkey will listen to your whining.

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.