**Elizabeth Cobb Middle School**

**2018-2019**

**Course Title:** STEM and Environmental Science **Teacher:** Ms. Acree

**Contact Information:**

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**Join Remind:** Text @stemenvir to 81010

**Course Description**

In this course students will explore the world through Environmental Science utilizing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to do so. Students will work in the laboratory, classroom, or the field setting being given opportunities to interact directly with natural phenomena or with data collected by using other tools, materials, data collection techniques, and models (NRC, 2006, p. 3). In this course students will develop a growing understanding of the complexity and ambiguity of empirical work and skills to use equipment to make observations.

**Learning Outcomes for the Course**

* Students will be able to describe interactions and processes that transfer energy and matter through Earth systems.
* Students will be able to describe features of Earth’s surface and how they impact processes in Florida.
* Students will practice writing to convey ideas and support their ideas with evidence. (LAFS.68.RH.1.1)
* Students will practice critiquing their own and others’ thinking. (MAFS.K12.MP.3.1)
* Students will describe the implications of historical inquiry and how it affects practices today. (SS.6.W.1.4 & SS.6.W.1.5)

**Science and Engineering Practices** (NRC *Framework for K-12 Science Education, 2010*)

* Asking questions (for science) and defining problems (for engineering).
* Developing and using models.
* Planning and carrying out investigations.
* Analyzing and interpreting data.
* Using mathematics, information and computer technology, and computational thinking.
* Constructing explanations (for science) and designing solutions (for engineering).
* Engaging in argument from evidence.
* Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information.

**Required Materials**

* Students will need two composition books, one per semester for a Science Journal. These notebooks will stay in the classroom and not be taken home unless they are checked out.
* Students should also bring a 3 ring binder to store any handouts that they receive during class, this should be at least a 1 inch thick binder.
* Students will be provided with glue sticks, scissors, and crayons/ colored pencils to use in their Science Journals.

Lab Fees: A $5 lab fee is requested, please contribute what you can. Throughout this course students will be engaging in engineering and building projects, dissecting specimens, and using scientific observation equipment.

Textbook: There is no required textbook for this course, however, students may periodically check out reference books or materials when working on a research project. These materials are to be promptly returned at the end of the checkout period (no more than 3 days).

**Technology Requirements**

All students must have a Flash Drive (any USB Saving Device)

It would be most helpful if students have access to a computer with internet, a word processing and data manipulation software, such as Microsoft Excel, at home. \*\*However, this is *not a requirement to succeed in this class*. If this is not accessible please let me know.

**Grading:** *Refer to school wide grading practices for more comprehensive information (available on-line).*

**Grading Scale**

*Scholastic Citizenship\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

A 90-100 Outstanding Conduct 4

B 80-89 Satisfactory Conduct 3

C 70-79 Conduct Needs Improvement 2

D 60-69 Unsatisfactory Conduct 1

F 0-5

**Grading Criteria**

Practice (Classwork/ Homework/ etc) 30%

Assessments (Test/Quizzes/Projects/Reports) 70%

**Redo Policy:** If a student has made reasonable effort on an assessment but is not satisfied with their grade they may redo or revise the assignment for partial credit back on the assessment. **Help sessions** will be held every Tuesday morning at 8:45 am for students to receive help, work on assignments, or redo/ revise assessments. If a student plans to attend the help session they must receive a pass at least a day in advance with the reason they are attending.

**Late work**

Students who turn in their work late will have a 10% point deduction for each day it is late. All late work must be COMPLETE.

**Conduct Expectations & Class Rules**

Student Expectations

* Students should respect themselves, their classmates, other ideas, and our learning environment.
* When someone else is speaking, other students are quiet and listening.
* Phones should be away unless students are given specific instruction to use them.
* Be open-minded.
* Students are expected to follow all procedures, classroom and school rules, and directions.

**Procedures**

If students do not uphold our expectations, students will:

1. Be given verbal redirection
2. Have an informal conference with the teacher
3. Parent contact will be made
4. Be given a detention: 30 minutes with me in the morning or written detention to take home
5. If the behavior continues the student will receive a referral

Procedures for Entering and Exiting the Classroom: Enter the classroom quietly, gather your materials for the day, there will be a message on the board indicating what you need for the day. At the end of class, once all materials are put away, the room is clean, and students are seated, the teacher will dismiss students, not the bell.

Materials: One person from each table should collect the required materials after all in the group have read the directions. Before returning materials make sure that your area is clean, the materials are cleaned properly, all accounted for, and returned neatly where they were found.

Restroom Passes: Each student will be allowed 3 bathroom passes per 9 weeks and must write a pass in their agenda book, which has been provided by CMS. To let the teacher know what you have to go to the restroom, raise your hand with the Restroom Hand Signal.

Phones

Cell phones are not to be used during class unless specifically instructed by the teacher. If students are on their phones during class:

1. The student will be asked to put the phone away and reminded that they should be on task
2. The phone will be confiscated and given to student services where a parent must pick it up at the end of the day, per the school cell phone policy. Parents will be notified that this has occurred.

Headphones

Headphones, earphones, and earbuds are not allowed on campus and the teacher sees them they will be confiscated.

Tardies

Students must be in their seat ready to begin class when bell rings. Each time a student is tardy they must sign the Tardy Log.

1. Informal student- teacher discussion of the tardy
2. Formal student-teacher discussion and parent contact
3. Tardy Detention
4. Tardy Referral

When You Are Absent

If a student is absent, *it is their responsibility* to check the Weekly Work Cart and with the teacher to gather anything they have missed. In the Weekly Work Cart there is a drawer for each day of the week with the materials for that day, students should gather the required materials and consult the teacher about what they should do to make up the work. Students will receive 1 day to makeup missed work for each day that they have an excused absence.

When You Are Confused

It is alright to be confused every now and then. In this classroom we are working towards being better learners and are all bound to be confused at some point. If you find that you are confused first reread the directions or materials that you have been given. If you are still confused, ask your group members or a neighbor to help you out. If you still need help, raise your hand and the teacher will assist you.