

Boston Collegiate Charter School
7th Grade Science: Exploring the Earth

Teacher: Ms. Lopez

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Course Overview

Welcome to 7th grade science! This course will focus on the study of Earth Science by examining the world around us; it is always moving and always changing! The course follows the Earth's timeline, from the development of our planet, all of its ingredients and components, to how it changes over time. Throughout the year, students will be pursuing mastery of content knowledge by using scientific inquiry, experimental design skills and analysis of data.

The essential ideas that are consistent themes through the year are the process of scientific inquiry, the parts and interactions of systems on the earth, classification within the world around us, how energy is transferred on our earth, and the idea that our earth, and everything on it, is consistently changing throughout time. The course will be divided into the following major units:

Earth's Early Years:

Unit One: Earth in Space (Astronomy) August – September

Theories of the Origins of the Universe
Organization and movement in the Universe
Eclipses, seasons and tides

Unit Two: Earth Structure September – October

Earth's early development
Layers of the Earth
The basic materials of Earth

Earth's Changing Surface:

Unit Three: Plate Tectonics November – December

Plate Tectonics
Landform Formation

Unit Four: Minerals January – February

The basic materials of Earth
Mineral identification
Mineral properties

Unit Five: Rocks February – April

Rock identification
Rock properties
The Rock Cycle
Erosion, weathering and deposition

Unit Six: Weather Systems (Meteorology) April – May

Atmosphere
Climate
Local and global weather patterns

Earth into the Future:

Unit Seven: Dynamic Earth June

Earth's cycles and patterns

Grading

Student will be assessed in multiple ways: completing homework nightly, all work completed in the classroom, quizzes, labs and activities, and tests. The grade for each quarter will be based on the following:

- 30% Major Assessments
- 30% Minor Assessments
- 20% Classwork
- 20% Homework

There will also be a cumulative final exam that will cover all the concepts taught throughout the course. It will be worth 10% of the overall grade for the year.

Homework

Students should expect science homework each night. Homework will be checked for completeness, effort and accuracy. If a homework demonstrates low effort, then the student will receive Homework Club for poor quality (PQ). If a homework is not handed in during advisory time (or by lunch if the student is tardy), then the student will receive Homework Club for it not being done (ND).

Students may use Homework Club as a time to complete the work that they did not do or improve their answers, and, if turned in, have the opportunity to receive partial credit.

Late Work or Missed Test/Quizzes

If a student is absent, it is their responsibility to contact Ms.Lopez to see what they missed and to make a plan for getting the notes and/or completing the missed activity or lab. If a student is absent s/he will have the same number of days missed to make up the work. Missed quizzes and tests will be made up the day the student returns to school, either during lunch or afterschool. It is the student's responsibility to schedule a time to make-up the missed test or quiz, otherwise the student will receive a zero for the quiz or test grade.

Class Materials

A list of the required class materials, needed everyday, is below. If a student fails to bring any of these items, it will result in a demerit for being unprepared.

- Composition notebook (NOT spiral, preferably college ruled)
- One blue or black pen
- One pencil with an eraser (if mechanical, then extra lead is needed; if regular, then a personal pencil sharpener with catch basin is also required)
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Glue stick or roll of scotch tape (optional)

Please sign and remove this page to be returned to Ms. Lopez by Monday, 8/29/11. Keep the rest for your reference.

I have reviewed the course description and understand the information presented:

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parents & Guardians, please fill out the following information. Thank You 😊 :

1. Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

2. What is the best way to get in contact with you (phone or e-mail; what times of day)?

3. How did your child do last year in science? (Any specific struggles, what they enjoyed most, etc.)

4. Please share any pointers on how you believe your child learns best:

5. Any other comments or questions?