

Dear Earth Science Families,

I hope that this message finds you well as society continues to cope with the spread of COVID-19 both locally and globally. The intention of this message is not to overload you with information, but rather to provide you with an update regarding key details of the revised expectations from the LHS Earth Science Department as we move forward during the extended school closure. Much of the bulleted information that follows was previously sent out to students as an “assignment” on Google Classroom (the original message to students is included after the bullet points for your reference).

- First, here is an update regarding my gradebook. The 3rd Marking Period closes on Friday, April 3rd. If students have any assignments that they have not yet turned in, they can take a picture of the completed assignment and email it to me at jwilliams@liverpool.k12.ny.us. All grades during the extended school closure will be applied to the 4th marking period. Thus far, these grades have been recorded in Google Classroom and will be imported to SchoolTool after spring “break”.
- Going forward, students must log in to Google Classroom every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning to access all assignments for their core courses (including Earth Science).
- On each M/W/F morning, students will find a new lesson posted to their Earth Science Google Classroom. Each lesson will consist of video recorded instruction, learning tasks for the student to complete, and then close with an assessment of learning (often as a Google form). Each lesson must be completed on the day that it is assigned.
- My virtual office hours will be 11AM – 12PM M/W/F on Google Meet. I will check my email several times each day, so students should email me in advance to schedule an office hours meeting. Students can use their Chromebooks to access my virtual office at the following link (also posted on Google Classroom): <https://meet.google.com/poh-fvrt-rgp>
- Regardless of the duration of the extended school closure, we are still committed to teaching students the *full* core curriculum for Earth Science outlined by the New York State Department of Education (NYSED). Having said that, we fully recognize that the virtual learning platform is far from being an ideal substitute for the real classroom learning environment. Students are going to be deprived of hands-on laboratory activities and in-depth collaborative explorations with their teachers and peers. However, despite our time constraints and the limitations of distance learning, please be assured that each student will have access to the full Earth Science curriculum this school year.

- I pushed out the message below to students last week. The message was accompanied by a Google form that requires every student to acknowledge the revised expectations. Several students have still not completed the form. Any student whom has yet to complete the acknowledgement form will receive a phone call home from me on Monday afternoon so that we can work together to address any potential issues/obstacles that may be preventing the student's successful completion of required assignments.
- If you have any questions or would like any clarification regarding the information in this message, please do not hesitate to contact me via email. Now, more than ever, clear communication and connectedness is absolutely crucial for our success.

Last week's message to students regarding our revised expectations:

Dear Students,

I hope you are finding ways to connect with each other, and enjoying time with your families. I miss being in our classroom together. Virtual reality is no substitute for actually being together in a physical classroom where we can bounce ideas around, laugh together, and support each other in real time as we practice new concepts and skills.

Having said that, it is important to acknowledge that the extended school closure will now require us to learn and teach from home. Google Classroom is the only classroom we have at this time. During times of stress, communication is critical. Clarity is important because it will help us all avoid being overwhelmed. The purpose of this assignment is for me to clearly communicate to you the expectations that we will all be adopting during the school closure.

Read through the following expectations for how the extended school closure will apply to Earth Science instruction, and then acknowledge you have received and understood this information by completing the very short "quiz" attached below.

Student Expectations:

- Log on to your Google Classroom for Earth Science every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning (except 4/6, 4/8, 4/10, and 4/13 which are during spring "break").
- View all videos, complete all required readings, and then complete all assignments posted by your teacher by the due date specified by your teacher.
- Submit completed assignments to your teacher, following your teacher's guidelines for submitting work.

*The objective of these tasks will be to teach you as much Earth Science as possible from home. The assignments will be challenging but not overwhelming.

Submission of Assignments may require the following:

- Submit documents (including Google Forms) using your school Google account.
- Take a picture of your work and upload it to Google Classroom
- Record a video that shows your learning and/or how you are able to do something.
- Be prepared to take quizzes, tests, and other assessments online, following teacher's guidelines for completing these assignments.
- Connect with teacher during established office hours or via email when you have questions or need assistance with assignments.

Earth Science Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Teacher will be available by email to help with questions or provide any clarification you may need. If preferred, during office hours, we can also use a chat to discuss concepts in real time. From time to time, or by request, I will use Google Hangouts to host optional live classroom discussions.

Take Care Everyone,

Mr. Williams