

Earth Science Newsletter – October, 2019
(Mr. Williams – Rm. C-423)
Volume 4, Issue No. 1

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Greetings to all parents and students, and welcome to the first official earth science newsletter of the 2019-2020 school year! The first month is now behind us, and I have truly enjoyed getting to know this year's group so far. At this point, all students are familiar with my classroom procedures and academic expectations. For the most part, students are on top of their assignments and focusing well during classroom tasks. I have seen a lot of learning happening, and it appears that students are enjoying the process. My hope is that students understand the real-world applications of earth science, and that we continue to build upon our current momentum throughout the school year.

Students have completed three labs so far. They have analyzed data from Hurricane Dorian, visited the lab to test the density of various materials, and explored the topographic features of the LHS campus. Students have also started an ongoing long-term lab in which they will record and analyze their shadow in relation to the changing position of the sun throughout the year. During the first week of October, students will draw maps to represent model landforms that they will construct from "Play-Doh", and analyze depth data for Lake Ontario. At that point, students will have completed 5 of the approximately 40 lab credits that will be assigned this year (please recall that students need to have at least 30 lab credits to be eligible for the Regents exam in June).

Last week students brought home information regarding Liverpool High School's Expedition Earth Science program. Students have returned their forms, and we are in the processing of developing the rosters for each expedition. Our first expedition will be a weekend in the Adirondacks at SUNY-ESF's campus in Newcomb, NY (October 18th- 20th). We make every effort to give students their

first choice, and students will find out soon about expedition assignments. If you have any questions regarding the expeditions, please feel free to contact me. Keep in mind that expedition participation is not mandatory for students. These trips are meant to serve as a fun and authentic way to supplement the science being taught in the classroom.

We are wrapping up the mapping/introduction unit, and the unit exam will be held in class on Friday (10/4) for honors classes, and Tuesday (10/8) for academic classes. Also, please check to make sure that your child has used their Chromebook to “bookmark” my weekly homework calendar:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qskA_2V3CWLgUWeVStQOkc3DIM3hO1DzQlc3RHog-sY/edit?usp=sharing

The calendar is updated each Friday, and it is designed to help students keep track of the dates for when assignments are due or when assessments will take place in class.

Shout-out to all of my students in the Liverpool High School Marching Band. They recently achieved a 1st-place victory (the school's first in fourteen years), and just returned from a national competition in Annapolis, MD.

Honors Earth Science Only:

We look forward to seeing you next Tuesday evening, October 8th (6:30-7:30PM) in the Annex cafeteria for the Earth Science Symposium Family Orientation meeting. We will discuss the rationale behind the earth science symposium, review important dates, and share tips for making the symposium experience a positive one for all students and families.

As always, please feel free to contact via email at jwilliams@liverpool.k12.ny.us should you have any questions or concerns.

Regards,

Mr. Williams