

Earth Science Newsletter – February, 2020
(Mr. Williams ~ Rm. C-423)
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Dear Parents/Families:

This is just a quick update to keep you in the loop with how things are going in our Earth Science classroom so far this year. We are currently studying Earth History, and the first unit exam of the 3rd quarter will take place later this month after we return from winter recess. The final exam grade for the 2nd quarter was the Midterm exam. Once students get those graded exams back from me, they should keep them in their binders to use as a review resource when studying for the Regents exam in June.

Meteorology is up next, after the Earth History unit. Once we finish with meteorology, there will only be two units remaining: Climate and Astronomy. Once the Astronomy unit is complete we will enter full Regents review mode. Time flies when you're having fun!

Report cards for the second quarter should be out now. If you notice a comment mentioning lab credits, it means that the student has completed and submitted less than 15 of the 20 labs we have done so far this year. Those students are considered at risk for lab ineligibility, and need to start coming in during advisement or after school to complete back lab work and stay up-to-date as we move forward with additional lab activities. Several students will see room for improvement in their grades, and it is critical that they use my homework calendar to keep track of due dates:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qska_2V3CWLgUWeVStQOkc3DIM3hOIDzQlc3RHog-sY/edit?usp=sharing. Also, I am always available during Academic Advisement or after school (by appointment) for additional support.

In extracurricular news, the “walking on water” polar science expedition is taking place Saturday, 2/8 at Camp Talooli. The following students signed up to participate, and will come home on Tuesday with additional information: [Aliyah Contento](#), [Sophia Jarosz](#), [Jalyn Parrotte](#), [Molly Ryan](#), [Julia King](#)

Honors Only: Just a reminder that the Earth Science Symposium is coming up on Saturday, March 21st (8:30-1:30). Here are the important due dates for students:

Monday, February 10th: Final Draft of Symposium Article due for publication.

Wednesday, March 4th: Google Slides Presentation is due (on Classroom).

Tuesday, March 10th: PDF file of poster is due (directions on Classroom).

Although some of these deadlines might appear to be “far in the future”, it is important that students implement time management strategies and avoid procrastination regarding these last important steps of the symposium process. For example, the presentation is due March 4th but students must practice their presentation AT LEAST 5 times prior to presenting. So, in reality, the bulk of the presentation should really be completed by March 1st in order to allow time for adequate practice. The in-class presentation will be worth 40% of student’s final symposium grade, and ultimately 20% of the their 3rd quarter grade. This part of the process can feel daunting, but the way to overcome that feeling is with practice and preparation. Detailed instructions for the presentation and poster have been posted on Google Classroom. Students should make time to see me if they are having difficulty with any part of the process.

Regards,

Mr. Williams