Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to Earth Science at the Liverpool High School Annex (LHX). I look forward to working with you as you put forth your best effort toward a fun and successful school year. In many ways, 9th grade is an introduction to the real world. You will encounter challenges, and you will grow to achieve new levels of independence. This earth science course will provide opportunities to develop 21st century skills as you engage with some very big ideas.

Earth Science can be broken into three essential areas of study: **Geology** (study of earth), **Astronomy** (study of space), and **Meteorology** (study of atmosphere, weather, and climate). It is my goal to help all students develop a clear understanding of these three strands, as well as an appreciation for how they interconnect to create the conditions we experience here on Earth.

Students will examine Earth Science through a series of hands-on laboratory activities, text-based questions, handouts, film clips, group projects, and problem-solving activities. In addition, students will have the opportunity to participate in the LHX Expedition Earth Science Program (additional information forthcoming).

Communication is a critical factor for a successful school year. In an effort to keep all parents (and students) informed, I will be publishing a monthly newsletter on our class website (http://williamslhx.weebly.com) the last day of each month. It will also be sent out via email. The purpose of this newsletter will be to provide general updates regarding our progress throughout the school year. Each edition will provide an overview of the previous month's classroom activities, and an outline for the upcoming month. It will include important dates and any notable current events related to Earth Science. There will also be a feature in the Newsletter that recognizes individual student achievements both in and outside the classroom (i.e. "shout-outs"). If you have any questions, you can contact me at 453-1275 or via email at jwilliams@liverpool.k12.ny.us.

Grading Policy – Academic Classes

- Unit Tests (about 2 per quarter) 30% (of quarterly grade)
- Laboratory Reports (about 5 per quarter) 30%
- Quizzes & Homework (about 15 to 20 per quarter) 30%
- Literacy & Current Events (1 per quarter) 10%

Grading Policy – Honors Classes

1st, 2nd, and 4th Quarters

- Unit Tests (about 2 per quarter) 25% (of quarterly grade)
- Laboratory Reports (about 5 to 6 per quarter) 25%
- Quizzes & Homework (about 15 to 20 per quarter) 25%
- Literacy Assignment (1 per quarter) 25%

3rd Quarter

- Symposium 50% (of quarterly grade)
- Unit Tests 20%
- Laboratory Reports 20%
- Quizzes & Homework 10%

Lab Policy: New York State Education Department requires that in order for a student to be eligible for the New York State Earth Science regents examination he/she must satisfactorily complete at least 1200 minutes of hands-on laboratory Activities. If this requirement is not met by the last Monday of classes, the student will not be allowed to take the regents exam in June. I will assign approximately 1600 minutes of laboratory work, and all lab reports will be due on their specified due dates. Any laboratory report that is deemed unsatisfactory (less than 65%) must be corrected and resubmitted before the end of the quarter in which the lab was assigned. Satisfactorily corrected labs will be marked as 65% and added to the student's cumulative lab folder. Late lab reports will be accepted for partial credit (20% deduction) as long as they are turned in within one week of their Respective due dates.

Homework Policy:

- Students will receive approximately **1-2 homework assignments per week.** Homework assignments and due dates will be posted on **Google Classroom**. Homework assignments are meant to be short assignments that further the learning done in class or make the concepts more relevant for students. Homework is part of the equation for success, and not to be viewed as meaningless busy work.

- Homework assignments are due on the date given by Mr. Williams. Late homework will be accepted for partial credit (20% deduction) ONLY if it is completed in my classroom during Academic Advisement or scheduled office hours.

- If a student is absent when an assignment has been given, it will be the responsibility of the student to check Google Classroom to find out what was assigned and to complete the assignment by the next time his/her class meets.

Classroom Materials (You are expected to bring the following materials to class each day):

- 3-ring binder (1.5-inch binder should work well) including 5 tab dividers
- Spiral Notebook ***or*** 3-Hole Punched Composition Book ***or*** 100 sheets of loose-leaf paper
- Pen and pencil
- Calculator
- Agenda book

Classroom Rules:

- **BE IN YOUR SEAT AND READY TO LEARN BEFORE THE BELL RINGS.**
- **RAISE YOUR HAND TO SPEAK OR LEAVE YOUR SEAT.**
- **RESPECT ALL PEOPLE AND PROPERTY IN OUR CLASSROOM.**

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays (2:20 - 3:20). A late bus will be provided on these days.

As students progress in their academic careers, they tend to become more independent. An increase in independence requires an increase in accountability. I expect students to check schooltool frequently (at least once per week), and to communicate any concerns with me as soon as possible. I am very happy to help whenever a student is struggling with something in earth science. All they need to do is drop by during

office hours or academic advisement. If those times do not work I can also be available by appointment.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter of expectations. I am always happy to receive any feedback from my students and their parents/guardians. After you have filled out the information on the following page, **please detach and send back with your child**. Also, please note that the information in this letter has been included for your reference under the **"classroom" tab** of my website.

Sincerely,

Jason M. Williams
Earth Science Teacher

I have read Mr. Williams's letter of expectations for the 2016-2017 school year. I understand that if I have any questions, I should feel free to contact Mr. Williams by phone (315-453-1275) or email (jwilliams@liverpool.k12.ny.us).

_____ _____

Student Name (Print) Student Signature

_____ _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Print) Parent/Guardian Signature

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Parent/Guardian Contact Information (please include best **phone number** *and* **email address**)

Parents/Guardians:

☐ Please check this box if you were able to access my website **(http://williamslhx.weebly.com).**

If you have any questions/comments or if you think there are specific things I should know about your child, please feel free to include them in the space below (or on the back of this page):