**Geology Course Syllabus **

Instructor: Mrs. Julia Ellis Email: julia\_ellis@bsin.k12.nm.us

Classroom: 616 Phone: 634-3452

Classroom Website & Blog: www.mrsellisscience.weeby.com

\*\*Lab fee: $10, cash and checks payable to Bloomfield High School

**Course Description & Philosophy**

High school geology explores the origins and the connections between the physical, chemical, and biological processes of the earth system. The student will investigate maps, matter and minerals, the rock cycle, geologic history, oceanography, hydrologic cycle, geologic hazards, and plate tectonics. Geology focuses on the physical aspects of the earth processes and cycles. New Mexico geologic features will also be a part of this study.

**Classroom Expectations**

I have high expectations for all my students; it is my goal that everyone will have an equal chance of learning and understand material. In order to do succeed, everyone must show consideration to the instructor and peers. The following are a few basic classroom expectations:

1. Come to class on time and be prepared to learn
2. Show respect for yourself, others, and the classroom environment
3. Challenge yourself and be an active, positive participant
4. Put away all food, drink (except water), and electronics\*

\*Electronics used during class for non-academic purposes (including but not limited to cell phones, mp3 players, digital cameras, games) may be confiscated for return at a later date. However, if you have are expecting an urgent call, please talk to me before class.

**Classroom Materials**

You are responsible for bringing the following supplies to class on a daily basis:

* Pen & pencil
* 3-ring 1.5” binder with 8 tabbed dividers
* 8.5”x11” college ruled notebook paper
* Textbook with bookcover

**Classroom Website & Blog**

The classroom website for this class can be found at the address on the first page of this syllabus. While you are not required to use this, I HIGHLY recommend checking it on a regular, daily basis. It will have any announcements, a calendar, notes, handouts, activities, extra practice, and resources for your use and benefit. **Parents are encouraged to go to this website as well.**  Like the classroom website for this class, the classroom blog can be found at the address on the first page of this syllabus. While you are not required to use this, I recommend checking regular basis. It will have summaries of what we did that day in class and pictures from class activities. I recommend your parents read this blog also.

**Attendance and Tardy Policy**

You are responsible for any material you miss when absent for any reason, including sports. See the Student Handbook for the Attendance and Tardy Policy. Each quarter you are allowed 3 verified absences and 2 tardies without going on NG status.

**Grading**

Grades are earned, not given, and will be reflective of your involvement and performance in class. Students will be provided with many opportunities to display mastery of knowledge and skills. Some assessments will be individual; others will be from group work. Grades will be kept up to date to the best of my ability. Student work generally falls into each of the four areas:

5% - Participation (entry and exit tasks, class discussions, materials)

25% - Practice (class and lab participation, in-class work, homework)

40% - Retention (Quizzes\* and tests) \*all quizzes will be announced (NO POP QUIZZES)

30% - Performance (lab analysis and reporting, projects, presentations, research)

Semester Grading:

Quarter 1: 40% of final grade

Quarter 2: 40% of final grade

Semester Final Exam: 20% of final grade

The grading scale is as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **Percentage** | **Grade** | **Percentage** |
| A | 100-90 | D | 69-60 |
| B | 89-80 | F | 0-59 |
| C | 79-70 |  |  |

**Re-take Policy:**

In this course, there will be ample opportunities to improve grades. I want you to MASTER the course content. The most direct way to do this comes from raising Exam and Quiz scores. Homework and class work scores cannot be raised.

The following conditions apply to making up Exams and Quizzes:

* Only one re-take of each test or quiz is allowed…students should re-study the material carefully before scheduling a re-take. (before or after school)
* Students will receive an 80% if they score an 80% or better on the re-take.
* If a student does not score 80% or better on the re-take, the higher score counts.
* Students scoring 80% or better on an original Exam or Quiz can re-take it and the two scores will be averaged.
* Exams and Quizzes for a given quarter can be made up until one week after the graded exam or quiz has been returned.

**Participation Breakdown:**

As stated earlier in this course outline, attendance and participation are important, and counts

as 5% of the final quarterly average. Each student will be evaluated for their attendance and participation in class discussions, questions of the day, and clicker question responses.

**Cheating/Plagiarism**

Cheating and plagiarizing will NOT be tolerated in this class. If I see you cheating or find that you have plagiarized your work, I will take appropriate actions. On your first offense, you will receive a zero on the assignment, and it cannot be made up. After the first offense, in addition to a zero grade, you will receive a call home and will need to get a note signed from a guardian indicating they understand you have cheated. After two offenses, you will also receive detention or suspension, depending on the severity of the infraction.

**Late Work Policy**

I expect all assignments to be turned in on time. This means before class starts in the appropriate location unless otherwise noted. Daily work that is late, such as homework, will receive NOT receive full credit. Each day an item is late, 10% of the possible grade will be taken off (If 50 points, a day late will result in 5 points taken off automatically).