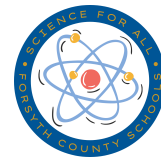


# Forsyth County Schools

## Earth Systems Syllabus 2024/2025



**Teacher Name:** Mrs. Hayley Bean

**Email:** f40122@forsythk12.org

**Room Number:** 363

**Phone:** (770) 781- 2264    **Ext:** 100363

**Course Description (GaDOE):** Earth Systems Science is designed to continue student investigations that began in K-8 Earth Science and Life Science curricula and investigate the connections among Earth's systems through Earth history. These systems – the atmosphere, hydrosphere, geosphere, and biosphere – interact through time to produce the Earth's landscapes, ecology, and resources. This course develops the explanations of phenomena fundamental to the sciences of geology and physical geography, including the early history of the Earth, plate tectonics, landform evolution, the Earth's geologic record, weather and climate, and the history of life on Earth. Instruction should focus on inquiry and development of scientific explanations, rather than mere descriptions of phenomena. Case studies, laboratory exercises, maps, and data analysis should be integrated into units. Special attention should be paid to topics of current interest (e.g., recent earthquakes, tsunamis, global warming, price of resources) and to potential careers in geosciences.

**Standards:** *Course Standards can be found at [Georgia Standards of Excellence](#)*

**Required Assignments:** We will have a mix of labs, quizzes, projects, and tests.

**Required Materials:** For the most effective learning throughout the course, students will need a 1-1.5" 3-ring binder with dividers for each unit. Students will be responsible for keeping their daily work and labs for use at the end of each unit. Class handouts will be provided and all necessary resources will be posted on Canvas.

**Availability for Extra Help:** My office hours are Wednesdays before and after school from 7:45 to 8:15 and 3:45 to 4:10. Help is also available during Instructional Flex.

**Makeup Work:** *Make up work is defined as work assigned during a student's absence, not work assigned prior to an absence. The student has five (5) school days upon returning to school to complete make-up work. The teacher has the discretion to grant a longer period to make up work if there are extenuating circumstances.*

### **Grading Calculations:**

Course Average = 50% (1<sup>st</sup> Sem. Course Work) + 50% (2<sup>nd</sup> Sem. Course Work)

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Course Work = 75% Summative + 25% Formative

### **Grading Policy:**

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

Failing = Below 70

*Formative Assessments include, but are not limited to, homework, class work, labs, investigations, practice tests, rough drafts, and sections of projects/research papers/presentations.*

*Summative Assessments include, but are not limited to, unit tests, final projects, final essays, formal lab reports, final research papers, and final presentations.*

### **Academic Integrity**

- *It is the expectation of Forsyth County Schools that students exhibit academic integrity when submitting evidence of learning. When students submit evidence that does not authentically represent what they*

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*know and can do, the evidence is rendered invalid. Examples of academic dishonesty are outlined in both the Family Engagement Guide & Student Handbook and The Forsyth County Schools Code of Conduct. Depending on the severity of the situation, academic dishonesty/cheating may result in the loss of credit, completing an alternative assignment and/or disciplinary consequences up to a tribunal referral.*

**Learning Resources/Textbook(s):** All learning resources, both print and digital, are meant to support and enhance the student learning experience in this class. Below are the names of the textbooks and websites that will be used in this course. Some of the web-based resources require parent permission per federal regulations. Federal laws that guide parent permission requirements are as follows:

- **Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA):** The school is required by CIPA to have technology measures and policies in place that protect students from harmful materials including those that are obscene and pornographic. Any harmful content contained within inappropriate sites will be blocked.  
<http://fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/cipa.html>
- **Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA):** COPPA applies to commercial companies and limits their ability to collect personal information from children under 13 years of age. No personal student information is collected for commercial purposes.  
<https://www.ftc.gov/tips-advice/business-center/guidance/complying-coppa-frequently-asked-questions-0>
- **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):** FERPA protects the privacy of student education records and gives parents the right to review records. Under FERPA, schools may disclose directory information in certain circumstances.  
<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa>

Please review the resource list. Each website related to the curriculum resources is provided along with its privacy policies. Should you have any questions regarding these resources, immediately contact the course teacher via email or phone.

Name of Resource*	Hard copy/Website	Privacy Policy
Holt, Rinehart & Winston <i>Earth Science</i>	Class set of textbooks	Not applicable
Explore Learning	Digital supplemental material (accessed via ClassLink)	<a href="https://www.explorellearning.com/index.cfm?met hod=Controller.dspPrivacy">https://www.explorellearning.com/index.cfm?met hod=Controller.dspPrivacy</a>
Pivot Interactives	Digital supplemental material (accessed via ClassLink)	<a href="https://www.pivotinteractives.com/privacy-policy">https://www.pivotinteractives.com/privacy-policy</a>
Discovery Education	Digital supplemental material (accessed via ClassLink)	<a href="https://www.discoveryeducation.com/privacy-policy/">https://www.discoveryeducation.com/privacy-pol icy/</a>

**\* The following resources are county approved. These resources may vary by school due to sequencing, pacing, curriculum design, and/or individual needs of students.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read this course syllabus and approve of its contents. I agree to allow my student to use each of the classroom resources listed in the learning resource section. I will support my student in following the classroom expectations outlined in this course syllabus. I agree that I am the person who is legally allowed to consent for my student, whose name is listed below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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