

# The Physical Setting: Earth Science

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## Course Outline

- 1- **Introduction to Earth's Changing Environment**- tools of science: observations, Inferences, measurements, metric system, scientific notation, dimensional analysis
- 2- **Measuring Earth**- Earth's size and shape, mapping, longitude and latitude, time
- 3- **Earth in the Universe**- Origin, age and structure of the universe, solar system, life cycle of stars
- 4- **Motions of Earth, Moon and Sun**- Rotation, revolution, the moon, tides, eclipses
- 5- **Energy in Earth Processes**- Electromagnetic energy, temperature and phase changes
- 6- **Insolation and the Seasons**- Sunlight, Earth's radiative balance
- 7- **Weather**- Variables, predictions
- 8- **Water and Climate**- Hydrologic cycle, climatic variations
- 9- **Weathering and Erosion**- Mechanical and physical breakdown of rock material  
Transport of broken down rock material
- 10- **Deposition**- Sorting and settling of sediments, landform formation
- 11- **Rocks, Minerals and Mineral Resources**
- 12- **Earth Interior and Dynamic Crust**- Plate tectonics, orogenic processes
- 13- **Interpreting Geologic History**- Rocks and fossils, correlation, radiometric dating
- 14- **Landscape Development**- NYS landscape regions, drainage patterns, topography

**Grading:** Grades are calculated by adding up all the points earned by the student during a marking period, and dividing that by all the points the student could have earned.

Students MUST sit for the Earth Science Regents Exam in June. The test is administered in two parts. A lab practical will be given during the school day in either very late May or early June. The written exam will be administered during Regents Week in June.

**Lab Reports:** To qualify for the Regents exam, students must complete 30 passing lab activities. The activities include the lab reports. If a student does not meet the lab requirement, he/she may not take the Regents exam.

**Extra Help:** Extra help is available by appointment. I am in school almost every morning by 7am and in my classroom by 7:15am. I am also available most afternoons except Wednesdays. I do not schedule formal extra-help sessions. It is the student's responsibility to ask for extra help; we will then set up a time that is mutually agreeable.

**Absences:** It is the student's responsibility to find out what work was covered in class in class. They can then schedule a time to come in and review the notes from that day. If a student is absent on the day of a test/quiz, that test/quiz will be made up at the end of the marking period (after school so all children who missed that test can make it up at the same time)