

## CLASSROOM AND COURSE EXPECTATIONS

State Education regulations require all students to pass a regents exam in science in order to graduate high school. All students will be required to take the regents exam at the end of the year. Please note that to qualify for the regents exam students must meet the lab requirement described below.

### I. LABS

1. You must hand in your own write up (group write ups are unacceptable).
2. New York State requires that a minimum of 1200 lab minutes (approximately 30 labs) are satisfactorily completed in order to qualify to take the regents exam. The course will include approximately 50 labs.
3. Labs handed in after the completion of a unit will receive only half credit toward your average, but will get full credit toward the lab requirement.
4. You will be assigned a lab group. Part of the lab grade will be based on the contribution you make to this group.

### II. HOMEWORK

1. Homework will be assigned most every night. It may take the form of problems to solve, readings from the textbook or articles, completing lab reports, or studying for quizzes and tests.
2. Late assignments will receive half credit. If it has already been reviewed in class it will receive no credit.
3. Homework can be accessed by looking at the course calendar found on the website.

### III. ABSENCES

1. You may be required to make up missed work after school if you need extra help or lab equipment.
2. You will be allowed an appropriate amount of time to complete work missed due to an absence.
3. Remember that more than 10 absences that have not been made up may result in being denied credit in this course regardless of your average (as described in the High School Attendance Guidelines).

### IV. MATERIALS

A 3-ring binder, calculator, pencil, colored pencils, *Earth Science Reference Tables*, and assignment pad must be brought to every class. **You must use pencils on labs.** Your text may be kept at home.

### V. CONDUCT

1. Cheating (including copying HW and answers to lab questions) will result in a 0 and a behavioral referral.
2. All students should be in class before the class is scheduled to begin.
3. Treat books, equipment, and furniture with respect.
4. No foul language or inappropriate behavior...you are judged by the actions you choose and the language you use.
5. TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN CLASS...IT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

**"...to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."**

**Alfred, Lord Tennyson**

*Ulysses*

## GRADING SCHEME

At the end of each quarter a student's average is determined using the following formula:

### Average Formula:

$$\frac{\text{Points Earned}}{\text{Points Available}} \times 100$$

For example if a student were to earn 160 of a possible 200 points in a particular quarter their average would be an 80.

### Assignment Values:

HW	1-5 points
Labs	5 points
Miniquiz	10 points (given at end of quarter based on average of daily mini-quizzes)
Quiz/Tests	10-50 points

### Lab Requirement:

**Acceptably completed labs are a requirement for a passing grade each quarter. A minimum of 65% of each quarter's labs must be handed in with a grade of at least 3 out of 5 (before any deduction for lateness) for a student to pass the quarter. Unacceptable labs may be revised for lab credit.**

### Extra Credit:

Students may make corrections to all tests and quizzes for half credit back. Each corrected answer must include an explanation of why the new answer is correct. Other extra credit may be completed only if all assignments are up to date. Up to 5 points may be added onto a quarterly average.

### Extra Help:

Help is available most days after school. Please use the sign up sheet at the front of the room.

### Grade Reporting:

A progress update that shows all assignment grades and current average will be handed out every few weeks.