

# APPROVED



900 Med High Dr. Mercedes, TX  
956-565-4620

<b>Credits per Semester</b>	<b>.5 credit per semester</b>
<b>Instructor</b>	Instructor: Andrew Cortez Conference Period: <u>2</u> A and <u>3</u> B Email: <a href="mailto:andrew.cortez@stisd.net">andrew.cortez@stisd.net</a>
<b>Course Description/Objectives</b>	<p>This course is an introduction to geosciences, with a focus on the basics of physical geology with an emphasis on environmental problems. The geosciences are at the heart of many challenges facing humans in this century: topics like climate change, sustainability, energy resources, land use, and natural hazards. A solid grounding in geoscience literacy is an important base for all citizens and is a primary goal of the course.</p> <p><u>OnRamps Geoscience Units:</u> Unit 0: Introduction to OnRamps Geoscience Unit 1: Solid Earth Unit 2: Plate Tectonics Unit 3: Geologic Time Unit 4: Earth's Surface Unit 5: Oceans &amp; Climate Unit 6: Living with the Planet Unit 7: Space Science</p>
<b>Required Instructional Materials</b>	<p>The class will require the students to have access to the internet and a device to complete online assignments.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Notebook Paper</li><li>2. Pens</li><li>3. Pencil</li><li>4. Color Pencil</li><li>5. Highlighter</li></ol>
<b>Instructional Methods</b>	Lectures, multimedia elements, class discussions, projects, individual assignments, cooperative learning, etc.
<b>Grading Procedures</b>	<p>The academic year is divided into four quarters or nine-week periods. The weight for each nine-week period will be 37.5 percent and the semester exam will weigh 25 percent.</p> <p>There will be a minimum of 3 grades per student during each three weeks progress report grading period, as per district guidelines.</p> <p>This course will be comprised of 3 grading categories: Major Assessments 50%, Minor Assessments 30%, and Daily Work 20%.</p> <p>What constitutes major, minor, and daily work is determined per course.</p>



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	[Examples: major assessments= test, project; minor assessments=quiz, engineering notebook; and daily work= notes, maps, homework]
<b>Cell Phone and Technology Policy</b>	Students are allowed to bring their own technology devices (laptops, iPads, tablets, etc.) to school. Use of these devices in the classroom is at the discretion of the teacher. Science Academy is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen devices.
<b>Assessments</b>	<p>Frequently during the year, formative assessments will be given. These will be in the form of homework, written or oral quiz, readings and discussion, student writing, or tests. Feedback will be given on all formative assessments.</p> <p>The formative assessments are critical to learning because they provide feedback as to what essential learning we will focus on next. They will help influence and shape the process of learning while we still have time to improve before test or grades are given.</p>
<b>Retesting Procedures</b>	Retests will be available to students upon receiving a failing grade. There may be prerequisites set by the teacher. The time and date for all retests is determined by the teacher. Any retesting assignment must be completed within one week of an excused absence.
<b>Homework &amp; Late Assignments</b>	<p>All assignments are due at the designated time. Homework is due at the beginning of the class hour.</p> <p><b>Late assignments due to absences:</b> If a student is absent the day an assignment is due, the student shall receive a due date for the next class meeting. Assignments submitted electronically are due before the beginning of class time on the scheduled due date. Students who are absent on the day an assignment is given will need to turn in the assignment within the same time frame originally set by the teacher. Work turned in during this time shall receive full credit.</p> <p><b>Late assignments not due to absences:</b> Late assignments should be turned in within a one-week period, but a deduction of 10 points will be applied per day (not class period).</p>

**\*All district guidelines/policies supersede campus guidelines/procedures/systems.**