Deer Valley Unified School District

**Mr. Gates** **Room #: CC404**
**Voice Mail #**
**Environmental Science** **Tyler.gates@dvusd.org**

## Course Description:

Environmental science is a field of science that integrates physical, biological, and chemical sciences to study the environment and the relationship between man-made and natural processes. Environmental Science is aligned with Arizona College and Career Ready Standards and/or national content standards and supports school-wide efforts to increase student achievement.

## Course Objectives:

By the time the student completes this course of study, the student will know or be able to:

1. Construct an explanation based on evidence to illustrate the role of nuclear fusion in the life cycle of a star.
2. Construct an explanation about the relationships among the frequency, wavelength, and speed of waves traveling in various media, and their applications to modern technology.
3. Construct an explanation of how gravitational forces impact the evolution of planetary motion, structure, surfaces, atmospheres, moons and rings.
4. Construct an explanation for a field's strength and influence on an object (electric, gravitational, magnetic).
5. Collect, analyze and interpret data regarding the change in motion of an object or system in one dimension, to construct an explanation using Newton's Laws.
6. Use mathematics and computational thinking to explain how Newton's laws are used in engineering and technologies to create products to serve human ends.
7. Construct an explanation of the origin, expansion, and scale of the universe based on astronomical evidence.
8. Develop and use models to explain the relationship of the structure of atoms to patterns and properties observed in the Periodic Table and describe how these models are revised with new evidence.
9. Develop and use models of the Earth that explains the role of energy and matter in Earth's constantly changing internal and external systems (geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, biosphere).
10. Construct an explanation about the relationships among the frequency, wavelength, and speed of waves traveling in various media, and their applications to modern technology.
11. Evaluate explanations and theories about the role of energy and matter in geologic changes over time.
12. Analyze and interpret data to determine how energy from the Sun affects weather patterns and climate.
13. Engage in argument from evidence about the availability of natural resources, occurrence of natural hazards, changes in climate, and human activity and how they influence each other
14. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information about how the use of chemistry related technologies have had positive and negative ethical, social, economic, and/or political implications.
15. Engage in argument from evidence regarding the ethical, social, economic, and/or political benefits and liabilities of energy usage and transfer.

## Classroom Rules and Consequences:

*In addition to strictly following all MRHS handbook rules, I expect the following to occur in my classroom:*

*1.* ***Be There*** *– It is important that you are in class regularly and on time. Not only should you physically be in class but also mentally. Students should take advantage of time with the instructor to pay attention and ask questions as needed.*

*2.* ***Choose your attitude*** *– You have no control over the things that other people do. You only have control over your reactions. Make a conscious effort to have a positive attitude. It is not always easy but if you are aware that only you can control your mood every day can be a great day.*

*3.* ***No food or drinks in the classroom*** *– We might be using substances that may contaminate what you put in your mouth. This is for your own health and safety.*

*4.* ***Listen and participate*** *- A lot of the learning for this class takes place when I am talking with you or you are collaborating in your groups! So, please be sure to truly and actively listen and when appropriate, participate.*

*5.* ***Don't procrastinate*** *- Study what was done in class for 20 minutes (minimum) PER DAY and start any homework as soon as you can after school before you are tired, etc. If you do these things, learning will come more easily for this challenging class you have chosen to undertake!*

**Grading:** Total grades will be calculated using 4 areas: bell work, homework checks, classwork/labs, and assessments (both quizzes and exams). Daily bell work, classwork (including homework and labs), and homework checks will each make up 10% of the total grade individually. Assessments make up 70% of the student's total grade.

The percentages will be rounded to the nearest whole number, a 79.5% will be rounded to an 80% and a 79.4% will be rounded to a 79%.

## Grading Scale:

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| 90% – 100% = A | 80% – 89% = B | 70% – 79% = C | 60% – 69% = D | 59% or below = F |

### Report Cards

In an effort to conserve resources and harness the capacity of our electronic grade reporting program (PowerSchool) district schools will no longer print hard copies of report cards unless requested by individual parents. To request a hard copy of your student's report card, please contact the front office at 623-376-3000. To receive your PowerSchool login, please stop into the office with a valid photo ID.

## Power School Online Access:

Grades and attendance may be accessed 24 hours a day online with your Power School access code. Access codes are available in the Counseling Office or Front Desk Monday – Friday 7:00 AM– 3:30 PM. You may check student progress regularly on the PowerSchool site using the same login for one or more students. For Mountain Ridge parents/guardians without home computer access, a computer with guest log-in capability is available in the Counseling Conference Room.

## Policies and Procedures

- Homework assignments on paper are collected at the beginning of class. A majority of the assignments in this course will be submitted digitally via Canvas. Those assignments will be due by 7:30am on the due date. Assignments are not accepted via email, canvas message, Remind or any other method. **Digital assignments must be submitted to Canvas for credit.**
- All assignments are given a due date appropriate to the work. A zero is filled in once the due date has passed in the gradebook as a placeholder. Although assignments can be turned in after that date, the point of any assignment is to expose students to content and help them obtain mastery of that content through timely practice so that they are successful on high stakes final exams. Not completing assignments as assigned and submitting them late hurts the student's abilities to achieve mastery as they may go into assessments without feedback and practice. Having late work also causes students to have to play "catch up" which causes additional stress on the student.
- Communication is very important in this class and every other. **The primary mode of communication for this class is Canvas Inbox and should be used when contacting your teacher.** It is also a good idea to remember when your teacher is likely able to return your messages. Do not wait until the weekend to reach out with a question that you need answered promptly, as they may not see your message until Monday morning. Likewise, do not message late at night because you will not receive a response until the next day. Communicating efficiently and promptly with your instructor is a key component to your success in this class.
- For all summative assessments, students will be allowed **one retake** per assessment as long as the student was present and took the original exam. No retake is available for students who miss the scheduled/announced exam and are taking a make-up test (there is no retest for a make-up test).
- Students who are absent the day before a scheduled/announced assessment are expected to take the assessment as scheduled/announced the following day or following ACAPrep.
- Mountain Ridge students have within the current unit of study to turn in assigned work for full credit. However, students will have a minimum of a week to turn in assignments from the assigned due date even if the unit is completed. The unit of study is established by the teacher and the Department on campus. A unit of study in this course is defined by the modules in Canvas.
- Assignments assigned before the end of class are due at the end of class, and will not be met with late work policy. The assignment won't be taken late.
- Use of supplemental resources on any assessments is not permitted unless explicitly allowed prior to the assessment by your teacher.
- On occasion, in order to re-enforce content mastery, PG and PG-13 science based video clips and science based instructional videos will be shown.

## Make-up Policy:

**Absences:** After an absence**,** a student has one school day for each day missed to make up work/tests, regardless of the number of days absent. If many days were missed, please schedule an appointment with me to formulate a plan for the completion of make-up work. Make-up work for extended absences (over 3 days) may be requested through the Counseling Office and picked up there.

**Late Assignments Policy:** Mountain Ridge students have within the current unit of study to turn in assigned work for full credit, as determined by the teacher, level, and department on campus. The length of the unit of study and due dates will be clearly communicated to students by the teacher. Any assignment less than a week old at the end of a unit will have a one-week submission period.

**Classwork Policy:** In-class assignments may be due by the end of the class period. Printed in-class work should be turned in through designated trays in the classroom.

## Daily Device Use (iPads)

Students should come to school with their iPads charged and ready to use in each class every day. Devices may not be used to record or take photos of other people without their consent. Consequences for classroom disruptions and misuse of devices will follow a progressive discipline model, beginning with a phone call home and progressing to office referrals for repeated or more serious offenses. See the Student Rights and Responsibilities consequence chart in the handbook for more specific descriptions of infractions and consequences.

**Recommended Supplies for this Course:** Some sort of paper in an organized binder for which notes can be written and kept for frequent reference. A way to organize and keep handouts, pen and pencil and a basic function calculator are essential materials to have access to. **If you have any issues obtaining these materials, contact me immediately.**

**Math/Science Calculator Policy:** *Calculators are permitted on tests and for assignments. Phone calculators will not be allowed.*