

**Earth Science Course Syllabus
Landrum High School
2025-2026**

Teacher: Mrs. Allison Ramsay

Room: Room 205 and Biology lab 203

School Phone: 457-2606 ext 4718

Extra Help: Wednesdays 3:15-4:15 or by appointment (whenever Power Hour is not an option)

Course Description:

Earth science is a broad term that encompasses four main branches of study, each of which is further broken down into more specialized fields.

Geology is the study of the substances that make up the Earth, the processes that shape it, and of how these materials and processes have changed the Earth over time. (Included in this branch of study: Vulcanology, Seismology, Hydrology, Physical Geography, Paleontology)

Meteorology is the study of Earth's atmosphere and how changes in temperature, air pressure, humidity and winds affect the weather. (Included in this branch of study: Natural Disasters/ Phenomena)

Oceanography, or marine science, is the interdisciplinary study of the sea. Oceanographers may study currents, storms or waves. (Sorry, no dolphins in this course!)

Astronomy is the study of Earth's neighbors in the solar system and beyond. Students will explore each of the above topics through a hands-on, inquiry based approach.

This course will count as a required lab science for college entrance.

Standards:

This course complies with the South Carolina State Standards. These standards can be found at the South Carolina Department of Education website:

<https://ed.sc.gov/instruction/standards-learning/science/support-documents-and-resources/earth-science-support-document/>

Course Goals

The following is expected of all students:

1. To develop students' understanding and appreciation of the nature of science, Earth Science specifically, and how it relates to their lives.
2. To practice and apply concepts through a variety of projects, hands-on activities, and lab experiments
3. To prepare students for a higher level of science education and greater develop their ability to think scientifically.

Objectives:

- The learner will develop abilities necessary to do and understand scientific inquiry.
- The student will demonstrate an understanding of the structure, properties, and history of the observable universe
- The student will demonstrate an understanding of the internal and external dynamics of Earth's geosphere.
- The student will demonstrate an understanding of the dynamic relationship between Earth's conditions over geologic time and the diversity of organisms.
- The student will demonstrate an understanding of the dynamics of Earth's atmosphere.
- The student will demonstrate an understanding of Earth's freshwater and ocean systems.

Learning Activities:

Class Discussions	Group Work	Quizzes	Tests	Note-Taking (ISN)
Laboratory activities	Project/Problem Based Assessments (oral, visual and written)			
Research	Webquests			

Instructional Materials:

- Large (11 x 8.5 in) HIGH quality Spiral Notebook (at least 100 sheets)-NO COMPOSITION
- Divided section in a 3 ring binder or folder with pocket
- Highlighters (optional)
- Wired headphones (optional)

Student Performance Objectives:

- ★ Each student is expected to complete all assignments and hand them in on time. Late work may not be accepted.
- ★ All work is to be authentic and completed by the person turning it in. **Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Doing so will result in a zero for a grade and disciplinary action**
- ★ Manage your time wisely, learn to take notes, and learn how to decipher the text for pertinent information.
- ★ Students should come into the classroom excited and ready to work. A lot of content is covered in depth, in a short period of time.
- ★ Students will be responsible for several major projects during the semester. A written component will be turned in with some sort of visual aide. These documents will be originally written based on accredited research.
- ★ Students will keep a professional and organized content notebook. This is required and will be included in the student's class grade.

Grading Procedures:

Grades are determined on the point system. Every assignment has a point value. The grade is based on the number of points you earn out of the total possible points. The more important the assignment, the greater the amount of points it will be worth.

Major Grades include Tests and projects and make up 50% of quarter grade

Minor Grades include Labs (participation and write-up), Classwork and Notebook Checks and makes up 35% of quarter grade

Daily Grades include Weekly Quizzes and Homework and make up 15% of quarter grade

*** Each quarter will count 40% towards a final grade. A comprehensive final exam will make up the remaining 20%.

Make-up Policy:

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL MATERIAL COVERED IN CLASS.

SHOULD YOU MISS A CLASS OR LABORATORY; IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO OBTAIN THE INFORMATION MISSED.

Please see me during independent work time or Power Hour to retrieve your missed assignment(s).

I will not address this during instruction as it disrupts the flow of teaching and activities that are planned.

A student has **5 school days** upon their return to make up all missed work, including lab activities. If a student has missed an extended number of days, the 5 day rule will be adjusted. Make-up time and tutoring will be provided during Power Hour or afterschool by appointment only.

Classroom Rules and Procedures:

A student is expected to exhibit appropriate classroom behavior, which will enable all students to participate in a supportive and nurturing learning environment. The consequences for inappropriate behavior are addressed in the student handbook. After- school detentions will be assigned as needed with 24 hour notice to the student and parent.

1. Do not cheat. If you are not doing your own work, it is doing you no good. Do not make up excuses- Do not lie. Remember that if I or someone else cannot trust your word, there is nothing else that can be trusted, either.
2. Show up: you cannot learn if you are not here. Be not only present in body, but present in mind. Participate in class activities, ask questions so that you may understand. Your presence will greatly affect your learning and therefore have a large impact on your grade.
3. Respect your peers: consider your words and actions carefully - keep them kind.
4. Respect your teacher: I am here to help you.
5. Respect your environment: Practice all classroom safety rules and keep it tidy.
6. Respect yourself: Do not settle for less - only you can push yourself all the way to success.
7. Have Common Sense: Be on time to class. Be prepared with all materials. Complete and turn in your own work on time. Own up to your mistakes and FIX them. Ask for help when needed. Act with maturity.
8. While Chromebooks will be used in relevant class activities, they must remain closed in class unless otherwise instructed. Notes must be taken with pen and paper.
9. **NO CELL PHONE USAGE. THIS INCLUDES BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO. MAKING PHONE CALLS. TEXTING AND SOCIAL MEDIA USAGE. NO PICTURES ARE TO BE TAKEN IN THE CLASSROOM. THE USE OF SMART WATCHES AND WIRELESS HEADPHONES IS ALSO PROHIBITED.**

Tutoring/Extra Help:

If you are struggling, please make plans to come for tutoring during Power Hour or by appointment after school. Anytime a student grade falls below a 70, they are required to attend tutorial during the designated Power Hour time for Science. Failure to do so, may result in disciplinary action.

If you receive a low grade on a Test (less than a 65), then you may come for tutoring and to correct your test for **half credit** recovery. This may only be done **twice** during the semester.

Communication:

I will call home if necessary to inform you of any behavior, attendance, or academic achievements/problems. Please do not hesitate to contact me. I will be available from 8:00 am to 9:30 am, daily, if you need to speak with me, or you may email me at allison.ramsay@spart1.org

Earth Science Syllabus Contract
Teacher: Allison Ramsay

Landrum High School 2025-2026

I have read and reviewed the course syllabus with my student. I understand and accept the information provided on the syllabus.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parents, if you have an email address that could be used for me to communicate with you, please write the address below.

☐ (Please Check) I **WOULD** like to part of a weekly email list of events, assignments and assessment dates for Earth Science Honors

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