1. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the foundations of Earth Science in the following related fields: Geology (with emphasis on CA Geology), Meteorology, Oceanography, and Astronomy. These units are designed to increase the students’ understanding of the physical universe as it affects their lives.

Realizing the diversity of students’ interests and abilities, activities and lessons are designed to develop critical thinking, attitudes of independent inquiry and problem solving skills through the use of textbook, computer labs, videos, computer-based models, and hands-on activities. The students will be engaged in cooperative learning in doing lab investigations and unit projects. Throughout the course the students are expected to develop skills and confidence in designing lab experiments, writing lab reports, and oral presentations.

2. GENERAL INFORMATION:

Term and year: 2014-2015
Instructor: Mrs. Mitzie Romero (mitzie-romero@sac-city.k12.ca.us)
Telephone Number: 916-433-5200 x 1121 Room #: B21

3. TEXTBOOK and RECOMMENDED/REQUIRED READINGS:

Holt, Earth Science
By: Mead A. Allison; Arthur DeGaetano; Jay M. Pasachoff
Publisher: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston
(Textbook plus supplemental materials)

4. GENERAL OVERVIEW:

The course will cover the following units (Big ideas):

- Science as Inquiry: Scientific method, Skills, and processes
- Earth Resources: Earth’s Chemistry, Rocks and Minerals, CA Geology
- Earth Structure: The Dynamic Earth (Plate Tectonics), Building the Land (Earthquake, Folds, Faults, Mountains, and Volcanoes), Eroding the Land (Weathering, Soil Erosion, Deposition)
- The Ocean: Ocean Basin, Ocean Water, Movements of the Ocean Water
- Meteorology: Composition of the Atmosphere, Water Cycle, Weather and Climate
- The Space: Solar System and the Universe
5. COURSE REQUIREMENTS, ATTENDANCE AND SPECIFIC GRADING POLICY

A. The following materials must be brought to class everyday:
* Textbook (must be covered upon check out from the librarian)
* Pens (black, blue), Pencils and erasers
* Colored Pencils
* Highlighters
* 3-ring binder with Lined Binder Paper (must be neat and well-organized).
* USB flash drive

B. EVALUATION and GRADING SYSTEM:
Coursework will be graded as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade Range</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classwork/Assignment</td>
<td>-20%</td>
<td>A= 90-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Activities/Unit Projects/ Research Work</td>
<td>-20%</td>
<td>B= 80-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework/ Binder/ Participation</td>
<td>-20%</td>
<td>C= 70-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes/Chapter Tests</td>
<td>-20%</td>
<td>D= 60-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finals</td>
<td>-20%</td>
<td>F= 59% and below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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C. ATTENDANCE POLICY: The JFK HS attendance policy as stated in the JFK HS student handbook will be followed.

5. ASSIGNMENTS:
• Assignments must be done neatly (in black/blue pen or pencil) and turned in on time. All assignment will be graded and assigned points.
• Use your binder for Daily Warm Ups/notes, assignments and homework.
• Lab report following the format (to be given on the first lab activity) will be required for every investigation/lab activity.
• Know due dates and submit coursework on time. NO Late Work will be accepted.
• When absent the previous day, pick up missed assignments from the assignment corner the day you report to class, or ask from your teacher before school starts or at the end of the day. (I may be busy preparing for a lab before class starts and may not be able to entertain your questions/request.) You will be given the number of days of excused absence plus one day to complete the missed work. However, make up can’t be done for most labs. If you missed one, ask from your teacher an alternate assignment.
• After school Lab Extension or make up will be provided when necessary.
• After school Help will be available from 3:15-5:00 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays. Let your teacher know if you are coming and also inform your parents to arrange your ride home.
6. CLASSROOM RULES and EXPECTATIONS:

I. Rules:
   Each student is expected to act and behave as a mature adult. The following classroom rules were made simple so it will be easy for each one of you to understand and to follow:
   - Be Respectful.  
   - Be Responsible.  
   * Be Safe.  
   *Do your Best all the time.

II. Expectations:
   - Pick up all assignments/ lab handouts from the front counter as soon as you get inside the room. (Sharpen your pencil before class starts).
   - Be in your seat when the tardy bell rings and start working on the warm up activity posted on the screen.
   - Self control is essential in a good learning environment.
   - Talking, wasting time, and other undisciplined behavior have no business in our classroom.
   - Ask permission from your teacher before you leave your seat or the room.
   - NO electronics policy will be observed in class, except when required for recording data during labs.
   - Neatness is expected in all class work which must be properly labeled with first and last name, period and date.
   - Food, drinks, gum/sunflower seeds and grooming will not be allowed in class.
   - Respect for the teacher and your classmates, their property and school property is expected.
   - School dress code will be observed. (NO sunglasses and hats/ headwear in class).
   - Remain seated until dismissed by the teacher. (Throw trash/ scraps on your way out at the end of the period).
   - If you misbehave and disrupt the class, your work will not be given full credit.

III. Consequences:
   - Warning
   - Change Seat
   - Lunch/after school detention
   - Parent Contact
   - Referral to the VP

IV. Discipline Policy:
   - The student is responsible for his or her own behavior.
Note to all students and Parents: Please feel free to contact me via email and I will get back to you in a timely manner. My goal is to make sure that every student is successful in my class and I believe that active participation and communication are essential.

This is your 1st assignment for the term and is due on 9/8/2014.

I, ___________________________ have read the syllabus and fully understand what is required of me to be successful in the Earth Science class.

I have read and talked about the Course Syllabus and understand what is required of my child in order for him/her to successfully complete this Earth Science course.

__________________________________________  ______________________
Parent Signature                               Date

Phone # ___________________________          Best Time to Call: ___________

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