

Mrs. Hilario
Room 655



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Course Description – This course will introduce the student to some of the principles of biology and earth sciences which are relevant and informative, and which will help him/her function more effectively in this confusing and complex technological society. Living Earth is designed to provide a sound foundation in cell biology, genetics, ecology, evolution, earth science and physiology as outlined by the standards recommended by the California State Board of Education. Additionally, this course is designed to provide training in studying methodology tools intended to help students learn content in both this course and beyond.

Course Objective - The objectives of this course are: 1. To learn the fundamentals of the material in the areas listed above, 2. To provide hands-on experience in order to understand lecture concepts and to introduce the student to basic science techniques, 3. To review the fundamentals of science investigation, and 4. To nurture an interest in the sciences and enthusiasm for future work.

Students should expect to develop an understanding of living systems and the nature of science. Emphasis will be placed on the skills necessary to examine scientific explanations, conduct controlled experiments, analyze and communicate information, and gather and use information in science literature.

Class Expectations: All school rules, dress code requirements, and attendance policies as described in the Parent/Student Handbook will be enforced. **Students ARE expected to wear their ID's at ALL times – I do not allow access to my classroom without your ID.**

- * Arrive to class **on time**
 - * Have all necessary materials
 - * Respect this room & everyone in it
 - * CHARGED Chromebook
 - * Keep purses/backpacks off workspace
 - * Stay out of cabinets, drawers, & my desk area
 - * Do not write on desks – even with your eraser
 - * Engage and work in class
 - * No food or beverages (except water)
 - * Do not sharpen pencil while I am teaching
- ** NO student will prevent learning from taking place! All students deserve a learning environment free from the harassment of peers and/or class disruptions.

Consequences:

- 1st Offense – Warning
- 2nd Offense – Lunch detention / phone call home
- 3rd Offense – 60 minute **after-school** detention / phone call home
- Subsequent Offences: Referral to Office

*Some offenses, such as dangerous behavior during labs, may warrant an immediate referral. Please strive to follow the expectations and avoid any unpleasantness. Remember, make GOOD CHOICES!

Tardy Policy: Every three (3) tardies will earn 30 minutes of lunch detention. You will receive written notification of what days you were tardy and when the detention is to be served. You will be given 2 days' notice prior to serving detention.

When you are tardy to class, please enter quietly and proceed to your desk where you will pick up at whatever point the class is currently on. Do not interrupt the lesson or expect the lesson to go back for what you have missed.

Required Materials: Bring the following materials to class with you EVERY day for full daily participation credit.

1. Pens/Pencils
2. Scotch Tape
3. Highlighters
4. Charged Chromebook

Tutoring: Tutoring is available in my classroom on Tuesday at lunch and by appointment. After school tutoring is also available every day in the Media Center on campus with a rotation of various teachers and peers.

Grading Scale:

A+ 97% and above	B- 80% - 83%	D 64% - 66%
A 94% - 96%	C+ 77% - 79%	D- 60% - 63%
A- 90% - 93%	C 74% - 76%	F 59% and below
B+ 87% - 89%	C- 70% - 73%	
B 84% - 86%	D+ 67% - 69%	

Attendance: In the event you are absent from class, it is the responsibility of the student to obtain all make-up work from me. Make-up work will **only** be given at the request of the student and if the absence is excused - if my class is the only class that you did not attend and the absence is not excused, don't bother asking. **Please do not interrupt the instruction of the classroom to request make-up work or expect classroom instruction to stop so that make-up work can be obtained.** As the student, it is **your responsibility** to request make-up work upon your immediate return to school.

10% will be deducted for each day your assignment is late. After the 5th day, you can turn your assignment in for 50% of your earned credit.

Grading Categories: Your new knowledge and skills will be measured in various ways. This will include: small group work, individual class work, labs, assessments, homework assignments, oral presentations, notebook organization, projects etc. Your grade will be based on total points accumulated throughout each semester. Your first semester grade is independent from your second semester grade (they will not be averaged together).

Examples	Percentage of Total Grade
In-class assignments Quizzes Weekly Warm-Ups Notebook Checks	40%
Labs/Assessments Major Projects	35%
Work Ethic / Participation	15%
Homework Monthly Article Reviews	10%

Electronics & Make-Up: No cell phones, ipods, headphones, earphones, etc., use is allowed in class (unless specifically instructed by me). These items must be put away. (Even to tell time – I will let you know when class is over).

Please, no grooming (hair, makeup, etc) once class has begun. Electronics and grooming items will be taken if they are used during class time & you can get it at the end of class.

If this continues to be an issue, I will confiscate the item and your parent will need to come to the front office at the end of school to pick it up. Each time I need to address this issue, work ethic/participation points will be deducted and increase each time and I will document in synergy.

Restroom Use: Students may not use the restroom within the first or last 10 minutes of class. Only one student may use a bathroom pass at a time. Bathroom passes may not be used during a test or quiz. Each time a student uses the restroom they will lose participation points. 1 for the 1st time, 2 for the second, and so on. **Unless you have a doctor's note.

Self-Contained Special Education Classroom

The curriculum that you are receiving in this classroom is the same as the curriculum being taught in the general education classroom. The ONLY difference is that I will teach you at a different pace using different instructional techniques based around the services listed on your IEP. This does not in ANY WAY mean that you are less intelligent than any of your other peers. You are still held to the same standards and responsibilities as any other student on this campus taking general education courses. This class is not an "easy-out", it requires that you attend class regularly, take notes, pay attention, do your work, and try. I do not give free grades – I base my grading on the work you have done and the effort that you have put into your work. Extra credit will be provided throughout the year but at my discretion and it should not be relied on to "get your grade up". The grade you receive is the grade you deserve. I am always here to help and tutor, but I will not do the work FOR you. Communication is key.

Notice of Failure/Lack of Effort Policy (Any student with a D or an F)

Parents will be notified of students' progress or lack thereof ranging from low test scores, incomplete assignments, does not do work during class time, does not ask questions, does not take advantage of tutoring, etc. Mrs. Hilario will document all activity or lack of activity of any student that is not meeting the basic requirements of the course through written documentation (day-to-day events) recorded in Synergy. Parents, please have an account with our Synergy Grading System so that you have access to not only the progress of your student, but any day to day behaviors that I may have noted (examples could be things such as student refused to work, student was asked to pick their head up and complete assignment, student had to be told to put phone away, etc.). If you have additional concerns or questions about a comment that I have left in the gradebook, please feel free to call me here at RMHS 760-202-6455 or email mhilario@psusd.us.

Dear Parents and Students,

Your student has been given this syllabus and we have discussed in class. Your student's copy is to be **signed by both the student and a parent/guardian** and turned in to me. It will be kept in their science interactive notebook (INB) so they can refer to it during the school year, as needed. In addition, I am also sending a copy home for you to keep and ask that you review the syllabus with your child. The purpose of this copy is for my records and the purpose of the handwritten copy is for the student to review and be aware of the expectations of the class throughout the school year.

Please pay particular attention to the cell phone policy. It is always my primary concern to help your student achieve success. As a teacher I cannot compete with the excitement of a cell phone. Student distractions are often due to texting, taking pictures, checking messages, etc. Students who generally divert their attention to their phone become "lost in the lesson" therefore making chemistry seem even harder. Students often become angry or annoyed that they are asked to put their phone away. It is my job to help your student understand science concepts and often that cannot be the case when I compete with a phone for their attention.

Thank you for taking the time to read and discuss the syllabus and expectations with your student. If you need to reach me you can contact me through email at mhilario@psusd.us or 760-202-6455 ext. 2655.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Hilario

Statement: I have read and understand the classroom policies and expectations in Mrs. Hilario's Living Earth Class.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/ Guardian Name: _____

Parent/ Guardian Signature: _____

Parents/Guardians: Please fill out the following:

1. Contact Phone Number: _____

2. Contact E-mail Address: _____

3. Do you prefer to be contacted through phone call, text, or E-mail? _____