

ROSLYN HIGH SCHOOL

DEPARTMENT: SCIENCE

NAME OF COURSE: HONORS EARTH SCIENCE

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

The Physical Setting Earth Science Honors curriculum is composed of eleven units covering most aspects of the physical environment. Students study the basic processes that produce changes in the Earth's crust, atmosphere, oceans and surface.

This course lends itself easily to the concepts of authentic assessment through the various hands-on laboratory activities the students engage in during the year with emphasis on analysis and interpretation of observations. The Regents examination includes components in which students are assessed on their ability to carry out basic laboratory procedures. There is a strong emphasis on the development of critical thinking skills which follow naturally from both the laboratory and classroom work. This Honors course includes several content extension topics that enable students to explore current environmental issues. In addition, students will complete an Honors Project each semester.

MAJOR TOPICS COVERED

- ❖ Planet Earth
- ❖ Minerals, Rocks and Resources
- ❖ The Dynamic Crust
- ❖ Weathering, Erosion, Deposition & Landscapes
- ❖ Interpreting Earth's History
- ❖ Properties of the Atmosphere
- ❖ Weather Systems
- ❖ Water Cycle and Climates
- ❖ Earth in Space
- ❖ Beyond Planet Earth
- ❖ Environmental Awareness

TEXTBOOKS

Earth Science: The Physical Setting, Callister, Pearson

REQUIREMENTS

- ❖ In preparation for the Regents exam laboratory reports must be submitted as evidence of performing at least 1200 minutes of laboratory work. Each student is required to complete a minimum of two-thirds of the laboratory reports in a satisfactory manner in order to pass each quarter.
- ❖ Major tests are given for each topic

- ❖ Surprise and announced quizzes may be given
- ❖ A midterm and a Regents examination which includes a practical exam are given
- ❖ Class participation is expected. Homework is assigned.

GRADING PROCEDURES

Seventy percent of the quarterly grade is based on major tests and quizzes. The remainder is based on the quantity and quality of the laboratory reports, laboratory technique, class participation and written homework assignments. The semester Honors Project is calculated as a quiz grade in the second and fourth quarters respectively. The midterm exam counts as 20% of the 2nd quarter. The Regents examination counts as 20% of the 4th quarter. The final grade will be based upon the student's 4 quarter grades.