

Roy C. Ketcham High School – Mr. Manzo  
Contact: mitchell.manzo@wcsdny.org  
Office: 298-5100 Ext. 31065  
Classroom: 295

Physical Setting - REGENTS EARTH SCIENCE: 2023-24  
Course Number S341 Credits: 1 Rank Weight: 1.0  
Prerequisites: successful completion of Living Environment

### COURSE OF STUDY:

Physical Setting Earth Science is a New York State Regents course that requires extensive study time, regardless of whether instruction occurs in person in the **classroom laboratory** setting, at **home** in a **fully remote** setting, or a combination of both in a “**hybrid**” learning environment. We will be starting the school year in an “in-person” instructional environment. However, we will be utilizing Google Classroom, so it is imperative that students log into the Classroom site each day to receive new instruction, announcements, and learning activities. Learning will take place both **individually** and in a **cooperative** classroom environment, with an emphasis placed on performance and problem-solving techniques. Multiple learning styles are present in this class, so instruction will take place using a variety of methods. Regents Earth Science covers 11 major topical areas, and learning activities will take place in a variety of ways, as follows:

- Reading any notes, Google Slides, PowerPoint presentations, documents and articles provided for each lesson, and completing notes in person on paper or through Kami on provided documents.
- Watching video clips or video instructional segments posted on Google Classroom utilizing Screencastify, Youtube, Edpuzzle, etc. Note: Edpuzzle videos will count as learning activities, and may contain questions that must be submitted.
- Review book materials and associated questions given for any of the lessons.
- Google Forms and quizzes provided for any of the lessons.
- Other written assignments accompanying in-class lessons.

The following topics will be covered throughout the year: (not necessarily in this order)

PROLOGUE: (measurement, use of Reference Tables, density, percent deviation, classification, observation, etc.)

1. PLANET EARTH (its size, shape, structure, mapping the surface)
2. MINERALS ROCKS and RESOURCES (identification and analysis)
3. THE DYNAMIC CRUST (earthquakes, volcanoes, continental drift, plate tectonics)
4. WEATHERING, EROSION, DEPOSITION, and LANDSCAPES (glacial processes, soils, streams)
5. INTERPRETING EARTH’S HISTORY (dating techniques, fossils, past events)
6. PROPERTIES OF THE ATMOSPHERE (study of weather, atmosphere, wind, clouds)
7. WEATHER SYSTEMS (synoptic weather maps, weather prediction, and natural hazards)
8. WATER CYCLE AND CLIMATES (water cycle, insolation, and climate)
9. EARTH IN SPACE (motions of celestial objects, constellations, angle of insolation, seasons)
10. BEYOND PLANET EARTH (moon phases, eclipses, orbits, gravity, solar system, universe)
11. STEWARDSHIP OF OUR PLANET (human influences, pollution, resource management)

### LAB REQUIREMENTS:

You will be in lab every other school day. During a laboratory session, students must be prepared to work for the entire length of two normal periods (about 90 minutes). **All students taking Regents Earth Science must complete a minimum number of laboratory investigation hours. This is a New York State requirement.** You will be notified if there are any deficiencies in required lab activities at each 5-week grade report interval. Should distancing requirements become a concern, some of the lab activities required this year may be electronic or “virtual” labs, but must still be completed as part of the NYS lab requirement. Regardless, **all required lab work must be completed and be acceptable by May 23rd, 2024 or the student will not be allowed to take any portion of the Regents Exam in June**, and will therefore likely fail the course. *Simply put, the completion of lab work is not optional; it is the essential learning mechanism for this course.*

**EVALUATION:** Students will be evaluated each quarter through various means:

Student Class Performance  
Homework Assignments

Quizzes & Tests  
Earth Science Projects (as per teacher)

Laboratory Reports  
Extra Credit Projects

### Final Course Grade:

First Marking Period = 25%      Second Marking Period = 25%      Third Marking Period = 25%  
Fourth Marking Period = 25%      Final Regents Exam Grade = 0% (Required to earn Regents and Advanced Regents Diplomas)

**This course requires you to put extra time and effort into your academic studies.** Lab work turned in early or on time will be eligible for the maximum point value. **Late labs/homework assignments will be reduced in value! Students who miss a lab or homework assignment due to absence are responsible to make immediate arrangements with the teacher to schedule a make-up date & time.** Grades are assessed equally for all students, so you alone are responsible for your grade. Always try to do your best and achieve as much as possible.

**MATERIALS NEEDED EVERY DAY:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. A 3-ring binder dedicated to Earth Science | 2. Assignment Pad (or student planner)                |
| 3. Pen and pencil in working order            | 4. A notebook brought every day to class              |
| 5. Earth Science Reference Tables (provided)  | 6. Solar calculator with memory (a \$1 model is fine) |
| 7. Review book (provided)                     | 8. Textbook (provided)                                |

**CONDUCT:**

We will be working within the confines of a cooperative learning classroom and **mature, responsible behavior** is expected at all times. **Students will COOPERATE** if they wish to remain in this classroom setting. Certain labs require the use of sharp objects and/or chemicals. Hence, there is absolutely **no tolerance** given to horseplay or other immature behavior. **Warnings will not be given for this, so be aware of your behavior at all times!**

**Exam Structure:**

The NYS Physical Setting: Earth Science Regents Exam will have the following structure:

PART A: Content-based, multiple-choice questions (25-35% of exam, usually around 35 questions)

PART B: Multiple choice and/or short, constructed response (20-25% of exam, usually around 15 questions)

PART C: Extended constructed response items (involves real-world situations and current events; students will be asked to assess, interpret, write an essay, graph etc.) (20-25% of exam)

PART D: Laboratory Performance Test - based on lab techniques students have learned to do during the year. This portion of the exam is given first, usually around the **first week in June**. (10% of exam)

Since **Part D will take place first (date to be announced)** students must meet the minimum laboratory hours requirements as set forth by New York State prior to the date of Part D, or the student will be barred from taking any part of the exam. Since Part D is typically given the first week of June, **all lab reports must be submitted by May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.**

It is expected that all students will take the Regents exam. Contact your guidance counselor for specific requirements based on the diploma you are seeking. In addition, the exam score may be used for a portion of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter average (TBD). Again, if the student has not completed the necessary lab requirement, then the student **will not be allowed to take the Regents Exam** this year. **To achieve Regents credit, a student must achieve an overall grade of 65 or higher including a 65 or higher on the Regents Earth Science Exam, unless otherwise modified by NYSED.**

**STUDENT/PARENT (GUARDIAN) AGREEMENT**

WE HAVE READ THE REGENTS EARTH SCIENCE COURSE OUTLINE AND THE GRADING PROCEDURE. WE UNDERSTAND THE CLASS REQUIREMENTS, GRADING PROCEDURES, CLASS RULES, AND STUDENT EXPECTATIONS.

AS A STUDENT, I AGREE TO DO MY BEST ALL YEAR LONG AND TO APPLY MYSELF AT ALL TIMES, AND TO GET MY WORK DONE ACCURATELY AND TURNED IN ON TIME. I ALSO AGREE TO ALWAYS BE HONEST AND NEVER COPY ANYONE ELSE'S WORK.

AS A PARENT/GUARDIAN, I AGREE TO CHECK MY CHILD'S WORK REGULARLY FOR NEATNESS AND COMPLETENESS, TO CHECK HIS/HER ASSIGNMENT PAD, AND TO INFORM THE TEACHER IF I NEED A CONFERENCE WITH HIM OR HER.

STUDENT (please SIGN): \_\_\_\_\_

PARENTS (please PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_

PARENTS (please SIGN): \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: A copy of this document is available on Mr. Manzo's webpage:  
<https://www.wappingersschools.org/Domain/1532>**