**American High School LIVING EARTH**

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Course Description: The Living Earth is a lab science class aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards. In this class, students deepen their understanding of biological core ideas. NGSS performance expectations are used to blend core biological ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts. Inquiry-driven laboratory exercises are an integral part of the curriculum.

The course covers six major units: Ecosystems; History of Earth’s Atmosphere; Evolution; Inheritance of Traits; Structure, Function and Growth; and Ecosystem Stability and Response to Climate Change. Throughout the course, students will continue to develop critical thinking, technical reading, communication, and application skills.

Need to bring/have access to for each class:

* ***YOUR CHARGED DEVICE***
* Paper to take notes (or you can take notes digitally)
* **Resources** that would be helpful: pencils/pens, clear ruler, colored pencils, ear-buds, notes
* **Positive attitude**

It is recommended that you keep ALL your assignments, notes, and lab work (graded and ungraded) in a folder on your device.

Resources and Expectations for Digital Learning:

* All classes will be conducted via Zoom
* Students are required to have their camera ON during the entire synchronous session
* All homework will be posted on School Loop
* Do not share video conferencing logins
* Virtual interaction must use juh, actions, and imaging
* For attendance, the projected name must match the name on student registration
* Only participate in assigned video conferences
* Participate fully in all activities
* Academic honesty must be upheld

**Please read FUSD’s** [**Distance Learning addendum to Handbook**](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Gonwf_F8Wc60RM583T_IbnZbf4tHhNVR/view?fbclid=IwAR1zqP12YxlBkRxIT2flJRilwhc-hz8ZtCjmc88A8qT2yNLwBpp-C49SB7E) **to see student expectations during digital learning and consequences for violation of these expectations.**

Grades: All grades will be posted online. **Grades will not be rounded.** I use School Loop regularly, so please make sure that both students and parents create individual accounts.

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| --- | --- |
| **Category** | % |
| Classwork | 50 |
| Assessments | 40 |
| Final | 10 |
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|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A+** | > 99% | **B+** | 87-89.9% | **C+** | 77-79.9% | **D+** | 67-69.9% | **F** | <58% |
| **A** | 93-98.9% | **B** | 82-86.9% | **C** | 73-77% | **D** | 63-65% |  |  |
| **A-** | 90-92.9% | **B-** | 80-81.9% | **C-** | 70-73% | **D-** | 60-63% |  |  |

Academic Integrity: This is a commitment to not engage in cheating (including letting someone copy from your paper), plagiarism, and academic dishonesty. Each violation will result in an escalating disciplinary action as per American High School’s Academic Honesty Policy which can be accessed at <http://tinyurl.com/AHSAcademicHonesty>​ (including a ZERO grade on the assignment and referral to the administration even for the first offense).

Labs: Labs will be demos or simulations done virtually and will require data analysis. Questions about the labs and lab process, specifically as they relate to Science Practices will be on the tests and quizzes.

Projects**:** Projects will be based on what is learned in class, and will require additional research and creativity. Each quarter, a major project can be expected.

Assessments: These will include group work, presentations, short quizzes, end of chapter tests, and semester finals. Students will be allowed to retake a test if they receive a grade of C- or lower. However, to make use of this opportunity, students will need to follow the stipulations below –

1. Meet with me for tutoring during the Office Hour immediately following the test.
2. Make corrections on the test that they receive a C- or lower grade on.
3. Re-test on a date determined by me

If the above requirements are not met, students will not be allowed to retake a test. Semester Finals cannot be retaken.

Participation: This incorporates participation in class discussions, class readiness, and a positive attitude.

Homework: Homework is due through School Loop on the assigned due date by 8:30 am. Submissions after 8:30 am on the due date will be classified as LATE.

Late Work: If not turned in on time, homework will be recorded as late. If turned in on time, the assignment could earn full credit. If work is one day late, half credit is awarded. Two or more days late work will receive no credit, 0%. Students will receive one Late Pass per quarter. Students have three days from when the assignment was due if using the Late Pass. Passes not used will be collected at the end of the semester for extra credit points. Certain assignments/labs (I will let you know in advance) and all projects will not be eligible for the Late Pass.

If a situation arises that you are unable to meet a deadline, it is the student’s responsibility to contact me ***ahead of time*** and keep me informed so we can adjust the due date without penalty.

Absences: If students are absent, it is their responsibility to find out what was missed either by asking me, checking School Loop or asking classmates. Work that was assigned prior to their absence and collected during their absence is due the day of return.

***Excused:*** Make-up work must be turned in within the same number of days you were out, plus one day. (For example, if you were out two days, you have three days to make-up the missed work). Quiz and test make-ups must be scheduled and completed during the first Office Hour upon return unless other arrangements have been made with me in advance. A missed lab cannot be made up. It is the student’s responsibility to collect that lab’s data from their lab partner and complete the lab report.

**When turning in make-up work -** type “ABSENT” and the date of your absence on the top of your paper. ***If you fail to do this, your work will not be graded.***

***Unexcused:*** Students will not be allowed to make-up any work, including labs and tests.

Tardy: Students will be logged into Zoom at their assigned time. AHS Tardy Policy applies during digital learning

Extra Credit: I rarely give extra credit. Pay attention in class for small opportunities offered to the class.

Recording of teacher or Students: Any use of a cell phone/electronic device by students or parents to take pictures and videos of other students and/or me (Mr. Sharma) during a class will result in disciplinary action in accordance with [district policy](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Gonwf_F8Wc60RM583T_IbnZbf4tHhNVR/view?fbclid=IwAR1zqP12YxlBkRxIT2flJRilwhc-hz8ZtCjmc88A8qT2yNLwBpp-C49SB7E).

Student / Teacher E-mail Communication: I check my e-mail frequently, and I am happy to answer student questions via e-mail / Loop Mail. I expect student e-mails to be written in a formal manner as opposed to being written like a text to a friend. Failure to adhere to this basic guideline will result in me not responding to your question. For long term projects, please email questions in a timely manner and not the night before.

Extra Help: There is no such thing as a “dumb” question! I am available for extra help during Office Hours. Please let me know ahead of time if you plan to see me for help outside of instructional hours. Come prepared with specific questions, problems, or labs. Please do not wait until you are swamped and in over your head before you come for help!

Letters of Recommendation: I am happy to write a letter of recommendation for my students for summer camp, enrichment activities etc. as long as the request is made at least three weeks prior to the due date.