**Earth systems Course Syllabus |** Fall, 2017

**Teacher Name:** Blake Clark

**Room Number:** 4311

**Email:**  ClarkDB@fultonschools.org

**Website (Clark):** <http://mrclarkearthsystems.weebly.com>

**RISE:** Fridays at 7:30am

**Course Description:**

Earth Systems is a yearlong course that is designed to continue investigations that began in K-8 Earth Science and Life Science. Students will discover the connections among the Earth’s systems throughout Earth’s history. These systems – the atmosphere, hydrosphere, geosphere, and biosphere – interact through time to produce the Earth’s landscapes, ecology, and resources. This course develops explanations of phenomena fundamental to the sciences of geology and physical geography including the early history of the Earth, plate tectonics, landform evolution, weather and climate, and the Earth’s geologic record.

**Format:**

This course is divided into the following topics and the following Standards. Although there is no End of Course Test (EOCT), there will be a cumulative final exam. The Georgia Professional Standards will be used to measure proficiency. In some cases the chapters listed below will only be covered in part as opposed to their entirety. A test, quiz, or project will be used to asses each topic, while a Summative Performance Assessment (SPA) will be used to assess each unit. For a more detailed description of the Georgia Performance Standards refer to the Georgia Department of education website: <http://www.georgiastandards.org./science.asp>

**SEMESTER 1:**

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| **Unit** | **Topic** | **Standards** | **Tentative Schedule** |
| 0 | Safety & Scientific Method | CSH 1-9 | 2 weeks |
| 1 | Formation of Earth | SES1 a, b, d -Composition and formation of the Earth | 2 weeks |
| 2 | Plate tectonics, Earthquakes, Volcanoes, Mountains, and Ocean floors | SES2a,b,c,d,e-Plate Tectonics | 4 weeks |
| 3 | Earth’s History & Geologic Time | SES1c: radioactive decay,SES1d-early history of earthSES4: Relationships between rocks, fossils, and the Earth’s pastSES6: Life on Earth’s response to Earth systems | 4 weeks |
| 4 | Minerals, Rocks, & Fossils | SES1 c: Radioactive dating of rocksSES3e: Formation of sedimentary rocksSES4:Relationships between rocks, fossils, and the Earth’s past | 4 weeks |

**Recommended materials:**

* writing utensils (pens/pencils)
* loose leaf paper
* 1’’ 3 ring binder (w/ dividers for each unit)
* colored pencils or markers

**Website**

<http://mrclarkearthsystems.weebly.com>

The syllabus, class calendar, current assignments, power points, study guides and announcements will be posted on this website. This is a good place to check for assignments that may have been missed when absent as well as details regarding quizzes, tests, and projects assigned and due dates.

**Grading Policy:**

1. **TESTS (25%)** One or more major tests may be given for each unit. Tests include information from class notes, text, lab activities, handouts and demonstrations that were completed during that unit or previous units. **You are expected to take a test even if you are absent the day before the test.**
2. **QUIZZES (10%)** Quizzes may be given during each unit of study. Quizzes may or may not be announced. **You are expected to take a quiz even if you are absent the day before the quiz.**
3. **SUMMATIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS [SPA] (15%)** Projects are used to assess units.
4. **CLASSWORK/HOMEWORK (10%)** It will be assigned and checked for **100% completion** at the teacher’s discretion. Individual homework and class work assignments not completed on time will *not* receive credit (but half credit can be achieved if completed by *packet* collection date). All HW/CW assignments will be collected prior to each test for a collective homework grade for each testing period. Homework/Class work packets will receive 10% off per day late for a maximum of 50% off.
5. **LABORATORY INVESTIGATIONS (25%):** You will be responsible for doing the lab in class and completing the necessary paperwork.  Lab handouts and reports should be kept in your class notebook to be used for study material for tests and quizzes. Late submissions will receive 10% off per day late for a maximum of 50% off.
6. **EXAM (15%):** The final exam is comprehensive and will be given at the end of the semester.

**RISE:** In Earth Systems, only tests are eligible for recovery. If a poor test grade brings a student’s **overall grade** to a 74% or below, the student is eligible for RISE/Recovery in the form of test corrections done during the teacher’s RISE time. A recovery assignment cannot exceed a grade of 74%. Science RISE is on Fridays, and Mr. Innis’s specific RISE time is 7:30am. RISE is located in my classroom (3311). **The recovery process must be initiated by the student within 5 days of receiving the assignment.**

**Tardies:** 1st & 2nd tardy to class = teacher warning; 3rd tardy = parent contact; 4th tardy = referral and disciplinary action

**Absences:** When a student is absent, **the student is responsible for retrieving what they missed** from the back of the classroom in the daily folders or from the class website. Do not ask the teacher “what did I miss?” without having completed these prior steps. If a student has been absent prior to a test, quiz, or project due date, as long as they have not missed any new notes instruction, they are still responsible for taking the test or quiz or turning in the project on time.

**Behavior and Expectations:** All students are expected to be RICH Raiders**.** While questions and class discussions are an important part of the learning process, respect, integrity, citizenship and hard work are the overriding principals in the classroom. *Communication is important and you can expect a call from me if there are problems that we need to work on together.* However, I prefer to make the student responsible for his/her behavior and work in our classroom.

1. Instruction is important. No passes will be given **during instruction**. Do not get up from your seat during instruction unless permission has been granted.
2. Be respectful and attentive – give full attention to the person speaking, **raise your hand to speak**, do not interrupt, and do not criticize.
3. Be responsible – turn work in on time and 100% complete; show up on time for lab, test & quizzes.
4. Academic honesty, truthfulness, and using materials and technology for the intended use are of the highest priority in the classroom.
5. Lab safety is a priority, all safety rules will be followed including **no eating, drinking, or chewing any substances in during labs.**
6. There will be no defacing desks, tables, walls, floors, posters, etc. Clean up your space when leaving the classroom which includes **throwing away any trash, putting away supplies, and pushing in your chair.**
7. No throwing objects or **any behaviors that do not reflect the habits of a RICH Raider.**
8. Electronic devices should not be visible and not be in use during class time unless otherwise specified by the teacher. If an electronic device is being used when permission has not been given by the teacher, the cell phone will be collected by the teacher and returned to the student at the end of class.
9. Being in class is very important to your learning. Therefore going to the bathroom is a waste of class time. If you are excused, you have five minutes and **you must turn in a cell phone to the teacher** which will be returned back to you at the end of class. If a student takes more than five minutes, bathroom privileges will be revoked. If a student does not have a cell phone, than a parent may email me to let me know of this and the student will be provided with a different option to give the teacher.
10. During quiz and test days, **all bags will be placed at the front of the room and all cell phones will be collected**. After all testing is complete, your cell phone will be returned to you.

**Earth Systems**

**Mr. Clark**

Dear Parent/s or Guardian/s

Please take a few moments to read through the course syllabus so that you are familiar with the class content and my expectations.

Feel free to email me with any specific questions.

Your signature below indicates that you and your child have read and understood the Earth Systems Course Syllabus **as well as** the school-wide syllabus.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(please print neatly)*

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support! I am looking forward to working closely with you in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

***Blake Clark***

**Blake Clark**

Alpharetta High School

*IRR/Science Department*