

Agora Cyber Charter Middle School  
Syllabus

**Course Title: Earth Science**  
2014-15

**Ms Ashley Smith**  
570-234-2016

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The Earth Science curriculum builds on the natural curiosity of students. By connecting them to the beauty of geological history, the amazing landforms around the globe, the nature of the sea and air, and the newest discoveries about our universe, it gives students an opportunity to relate to their everyday world. Students will explore topics such as:

- Fundamentals of geology, oceanography, meteorology, and astronomy
- Earth's minerals and rocks
- Earth's interior
- Plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, and the movements of continents
- Geology and the fossil record
- Oceans and the atmosphere
- The solar system and the universe
- Scientific method
- Questioning through science (applying inquiry)

**SUPPLIES:**

**Standard Curriculum Items- Provided by K12**

- Notebook: three ring or spiral and folder
- Wall Map Set (Science/History)
- Graduated Cylinder, 250 mL
- Pipe cleaners, qty 10, 5 must be green
- Advanced Rock & Mineral Kit
- Diffraction Grating Film
- Latch Magnet
- Safety Glasses
- Magnifying Glass
- Centimeter Gram Cubes (100)

- Clay, 4 colors
- Fine Sand (5 cups)
- Tile, White
- Advanced Thermometer

**NOTE:** List subject to change. Other items may be added for experiments, such as household items. Student and family will be notified in advance, before the item(s) are needed.

### **CLASSROOM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:**

#### **ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION:**

The Agora Cyber Charter School attendance policy is designed to promote maximum achievement, develop time management skills and foster success in the online environment. We will be following the Attendance Policy as outlined in the student handbook. Please see the student handbook for details.

The teacher cannot excuse absences. All notes and technical excuses must be sent to the attendance office via k-mail.

#### **GRADING POLICY:**

Please refer to handbook for more information.

- Each graded assignment will be assigned a specific due date.
- After the due date or multiple attempts, teachers are permitted to request a meeting with the Learning Coach and student before unlocking or accepting late assessments/assignments.
- Extra Credit is only awarded for work above the course curriculum/assessments when all assignments/assessments are up to date. Assigning students extra credit is up to the teacher's discretion.

#### **GRADED ASSIGNMENTS:**

Grades for this course will be derived from point value, with how many points earned out of how many total points available to earn.

#### **DUE DATES:**

Due dates will be determined for each assignment and at teacher discretion. Please remember to check the class website and your kmail often to keep up on assignment due dates and mark them on a calendar. Failure to meet a deadline will require students to meet with the teacher in order to establish criteria for the assignment to be accepted.

#### **CLASS EXPECTATIONS:**

- Students will ACTIVELY participate in daily live sessions.
- Students will complete daily assignments and OLS lessons by due date.

- Students will check K-mail at least twice a day.
- Students will contact the teacher when completing late work.

Dear Parent/ Guardian:

I am very excited to start our 2014-2015 school year! This is my third year teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade here at Agora. I look forward to working with you in the middle school setting, as well as working together to help your student be successful. If you have any questions about your child's progress in the class or other concerns, please kmail me or call me at 570-234-2016.

Team Website: [www.blacksquirrels.weebly.com](http://www.blacksquirrels.weebly.com)

Ms Ashley Smith