**Instructors:** Ms. Vandersee **Email:** [vanderseemegan@pleasval.k12.ia.us](mailto:vanderseemegan@pleasval.k12.ia.us)

**Office/Room:** Room 249 **Phone:** 563-332-5151 Ext: 5602

**Additional Contact:** Mrs. Ranfeld - [ranfeldamanda@pleasval.k12.ia.us](mailto:ranfeldamanda@pleasval.k12.ia.us) – Room 59

**Website:** [www.vanderseescience.weebly.com](http://www.vanderseescience.weebly.com)

**Textbook:** Earth Science: Geology, the Environment, and the Universe (2002)

**Materials Needed For Every Class:**

1. Loose Leaf Paper
2. Pen/Pencil
3. 3-ring binder (highly recommended – we will have a lot of loose papers)

**Ms. Vandersee’s Mission Statement:**

My goal is to encourage each and every student that comes through my door to improve their communication, problem solving, and critical thinking skills through participation in meaningful learning experiences. As you take on the role of a scientist in my classroom, I will provide you with opportunities to interact with materials and form personal connections with scientific content. Before you leave my classroom, you will develop skills and perspectives through which you can critically examine the world around you.

**Classroom Standards:**

1. RESPECT: Respect for yourself, others, and property.
2. RESPONSIBILITY: Be responsible for your own work, actions, and choices.

**Expectations:**

1. Be on time and prepared for class.
2. Only use your own knowledge and ability to complete homework, projects, and tests.
   1. A zero will be given to any individual caught copying, cheating, or plagiarizing and no make-up opportunities for credit will be given.

\*\*Plagiarism: copying someone else’s words down or slightly rearranging them and claiming them as your own. A zero for the assignment may be given.

* 1. The person being copied will also be given a zero if he/she knowingly permitted the other student to copy.

1. **Come to class with a good attitude and participate!**

**Cell Phone, iPods & Other Electronic Devices:**

From the time you walk into my classroom, your cell phone needs to be in the designated zone on silent ***before*** the bell rings to begin class. Upon entry of the classroom, you are not allowed to use a cellular device to make calls, check voice mail, send or read text messages between the hours of 8:10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. (unless specific permission is granted). Students not following this policy will have their phones confiscated and taken to the main office. Further disciplinary actions will be based upon the policies that can be found in the student handbook. Parents or guardians who need to contact their son/daughter while school is in session may call the school at (563) 332-5151.

\*\*If a cell phone is out during the period a test is taken, a zero and a failing grade will be given for the test.

**Homework Policy:**

1. All assigned work is due at the beginning of class. If work is not turned in when assignment has been collected from the class, it will be considered late. The assignment must be turned in to the “Late/Absent Bin” during 8th hour or before/after school to receive any credit that may still be available for that particular assignment. *You are NOT to be working on late assignments during other class activities. If that happens, your assignment will be confiscated.*

2. As a way of easing the transition from junior high to high school, late work will be accepted for up to half-credit until the day of that unit test.

**Self-Correction of Homework:**

* Homework must be corrected in red ink. (This pen will be provided for you.)
* During correction of homework, all other pens and pencils must remain under the desk, or a zero may be given for the entire assignment.
* Incorrect answers must be clearly marked and the correct answer added. If answers are not corrected, a zero may be given for the entire assignment.

**Student Absences and Make-Up Work:**

1. *Unplanned/unexpected absences:*As stated in the student handbook, for each day of unexpected absence you will be given two calendar days to ask for/turn in make-up work. a. It is your responsibility to check the weekly calendar, homework page of my   
 website or e-mail me for missed homework. If you still have questions, see me   
 upon your return.

b. **When a student knows of an assignment, project, or exam prior to the absence, the student must take the exam or turn in the assignment or project immediately upon return.**

c. Students will use 8th period resource for exam and lab make-up (Room 249).

2. *Extended Trips/Pre-Arranged Excused Absences:*The policy is outlined in the Student Handbook. The major takeaway is that **ALL WORK IS TO BE MADE UP BEFORE THE TRIP, UNLESS THE STUDENT AND TEACHER MUTUALLY AGREE ON A LATER DUE DATE.**

3. *In-School Suspension:*You are responsible to turn in assignments that are due that day, to complete work assigned that day on time, and to take scheduled tests. Notify me and I will inform the suspension monitor that you are completing an exam in my room.

**Passes:**   
Passes are a privilege. Students should go to the restroom or locker during passing time. Frequent requests or abuse of pass privileges may result in denial of future requests.

**Tardies:**   
Late arrival and tardy consequences will be based upon the HS tardy policy.

**Labs:**In order to receive full credit for any lab exercise, students must be active participants in the experiment during class time. Labs are designed in a manner to reinforce content covered during class so in order for students to truly master the main objectives of the class they must participate fully in lab activities. There will be informal rubric-based observations occurring throughout a lab experience to ensure that all students are engaged in the learning activity. Students who choose not to participate in the lab with their group can only earn a **maximum of 66.6%** on the lab activity. As long as students are participating with their group and invested in the activity, they should earn all of the possible participation points. Participation is defined as working cooperatively with all members of the group, discussing the material, and engaging with lab equipment in a hands-on manner to achieve the purpose of the lab.

If a student is absent during lab, they will need to attend one of the lab make-up sessions will occur on Tuesday and Thursday (before/after school or during 8th hour). These reserved lab make-up days are designed so that the focus of teacher attention can be helping students to comprehend the core essential questions lab is designed to answer.

**Lab Safety: (see attached lab safety contract)**Science labs contain chemicals and equipment that require special handling and can be potentially dangerous if not treated appropriately. Students must abide by all safety regulations and procedures in the laboratory. Disciplinary action, including being removed from the lab setting, will be taken if a student willfully chooses not to adhere to safety rules, regulations, and procedures given. *A score of zero will be given.* Students may be charged for broken and damaged equipment that occurs as a result of improper use. (See attached lab safety handout for more details.)

**Grading:**

Tests & Quizzes 65% of total grade

Projects & Labs 25% of total grade

Homework 10% of total grade

\*\*All assignments/work will be weighted according to difficulty level, time required, etc.

**Semester Grades:**

Quarter 1 = 42.5% Quarter 3 = 42.5%

Quarter 2 = 42.5% Quarter 4 = 42.5%

Semester 1 Final = 15% Semester 2 Final = 15%

**Extra Credit:**  
Individual extra credit will not be given. If extra credit is made available to a class, then it is the student’s responsibility to satisfy all guidelines and turn it in within the allotted time in order to receive the bonus point(s). Extra credit is not a common occurrence.

**Student Resources:**   
Extra assistance is always available and willingly given, provided the student has done the reading and attempted the assignment.

1. **8th Hour:**   
   Please utilize this time to seek additional help if you need it. I will always be available in ***ROOM 249*** during this time slot. To streamline attendance procedures, please request a pass from me and then check-in with your 8th hour teacher before coming to my room.
2. **Before School:**   
   I will be available in my classroom (Room 249) by 7:45 each morning for quick questions regarding homework or other assignments. If you have more than a quick question, please email me ahead of time so that I can ensure my work and errands are complete and that I can give my complete attention to you.
3. **Webpage:**   
   I have created a webpage that you should all utilize on a regular basis to keep up with assignments, check project guidelines, and study for tests. All of the materials I use in class as well as additional supplemental resources will be made available for you all to view at this site. You can also find a link to this website on the high school website, by clicking on Teacher Pages.

\*\*http://vanderseescience.weebly.com

1. **Remind101:**   
   I will be using this program in order to increase communication between myself and the students/parents at home. This allows me to send out classroom and school reminders via text message to help with remembering upcoming tests, quizzes, and other important activities. To receive these text message reminders, simply text **81010** with the message **@msvearthsc**. Your number will remain private through the website and you will not receive any advertisements or other texts. You may choose to opt out at any time by messaging ‘stop’ to the number above. **I suggest that both parents and students sign up for this program, independently, if possible.**
2. **Textbook Website:**

The online site for “Earth Science; Geology, the Environment, and the Universe”, contains practice quizzes and additional materials for each chapter. This resource can be found at: <http://www.glencoe.com/sec/science/earthscience/index.html>.

1. **Quizlet:**   
   I will post all vocabulary you are expected to know on this site and you will have the opportunity to learn and practice with the words at your own pace. This site will allow you to create notecards, generate practice vocabulary tests, and even play games with the terms.

\*\*www.quizlet.com – and then search: vanderseescience

**Lab Participation Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| **Cooperation**  **With the Group**  All members of the group must be included in the lab activity at all times. This means you must work at a pace that fits all group members. For instance, 1 person shouldn’t still be working on the procedure while someone else is answering questions. | You are working well with all members of your group during 3/3 checks. | You are working well with all members of your group during 2/3 checks. | You are working well with all members of your group during 1/3 checks. | During all observations, the student was working individually and/or not working on lab at all. |
| **On Task Behavior**  You are only working with your group to complete the lab activity. You will lose points in this section for talking with people outside of your lab group, discussing topics other than lab, being on your electronic devices, and/or working on other assignments. | You are accomplishing lab tasks as outlined in the procedure and questions during 3/3 checks. | You are accomplishing lab tasks as outlined in the procedure and questions during 2/3 checks. | You are accomplishing lab tasks as outlined in the procedure and questions during 1/3 checks. | During all observations the student was not on task completing lab. |
| **Lab Involvement**  You are physically and mentally involved in following and accomplishing steps of the procedure and discussing questions with your group. You will lose points by copying down answers from group mates and/or not following the lab procedure. | You are actively involved in completing lab procedures, discussing questions, and writing up lab during all 3/3 checks. | You are actively involved in completing lab procedures, discussing questions, and writing up lab during 2/3 checks. | You are actively involved in completing lab procedures, discussing questions, and writing up lab during 1/3 checks. | During all observations the student was not working on lab. |

**Safety Contract**

**Purpose:** This contract is designed to inform you of all the rules of this lab as well as precautions that need to be taken to in order to prevent injury or bodily harm. In other words, this contract has been constructed to make sure that everyone is aware that the science lab holds many dangers and hazards. However, the lab can be a safe environment if the appropriate preventative measures are taken and safety regulations are followed. Therefore, you are all required to read this document and familiarize yourselves with the regulations below. To demonstrate that you and your parents have read and understand this document, you and your parent’s/guardians are required to sign this form before you can take part in any lab activity

**Rules:**

1. You must **ALWAYS** wear your goggles when in the lab!
2. Never begin a lab early or without the instructor present. Never work alone.
3. Before beginning a lab, make sure you have thoroughly read through and understand the procedures for the day.
4. If you have questions about a lab or if something is unclear, make sure you ask the instructor for clarification/help before beginning the experiment.
5. A respectful mature attitude is expected all times in the lab setting; horse-play and practical jokes are prohibited.
6. Only touch equipment, chemicals, and supplies if you are instructed to do so.
7. Only perform the authorized experiment.
8. Make sure your lab station and area is as clean as possible at all times. Extra supplies and personal items, like binders and pencil cases, really clutter up a lab area and can cause accidents. So, leave all personal items besides a pen and lab notebook on a side table away from your experiment.
9. Do **NOT** eat or drink anything in the lab area.
10. Do **NOT** eat or drink anything from lab equipment. This includes beakers, test tubes, graduated cylinders, flasks, etc.
11. If you spill or break **ANYTHING,** notify the instructor immediately! Proper disposal techniques will be implemented immediately following.
12. Do **NOT** dump any chemicals down the drain unless instructed that such action is permissible.
13. Report **ALL** injuries, whether severe or not, to the instructor!
14. Clean up your lab station and wash your hands thoroughly before leaving the lab. Once your station is clean, I dismiss you from lab and allow your group to leave.
15. Never leave an experiment unattended (This includes walking away from your station without switching off hot plates).
16. Any/all materials/equipment used will be handled with respect
17. Never remove anything from the lab!!!!
18. Stay with your lab group. I should not see you wandering around the room or turned around chatting with a friend during lab.
19. Be a part of the lab! You do every lab in this class for a specific reason so make sure you are actively participating in lab so you learn/practice the material.
20. Show up to lab with pre-lab work already finished. This is background information you need to know to be successful in lab so the failure to complete these sections may mean you need to make up the lab at another time.

I (student name) have read and understand all of the safety rules and regulations designated on this contract. I know that all of the above rules are designed to keep me, my fellow classmates, and the instructor as safe as possible in the classroom and thus agree to abide by all of the regulations. By signing this document, I am saying that I am fully aware of my responsibilities and roles in the lab. Purposeful violation of any of these rules can and will result with disciplinary action and potential removal from the lab setting.

Class/Period:

Student Name:

Student Signature: Date:

Parent/Guardian’s Signature: Date:

I have read and understand the Syllabus, Classroom Rules and Procedures for Ms. Vandersee’s Earth Science class.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print student’s first & last name

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Signature Date