Welcome! Earth Science is a practical and extremely exciting science. I am positive that everyone will discover something interesting as this class progresses throughout the semester. As with any Science course, you will find that you need to be prepared daily for class.

Course Description
The Earth/Environmental Science curriculum focuses on the function of the earth’s systems. Emphasis is placed on Earth in the Universe, Earth’s systems, structures, environmental awareness and the cycles that circulate energy and material throughout the earth system.

Honors Earth/Environmental Science course focuses on the functions of the earth’s systems in a more in-depth, detailed, and demanding perspective than Earth/Environmental Science. Special emphasis is placed on hands-on projects and application of concepts.

The areas of inquiry include: energy in the earth systems, geochemical cycles, origin and evolution of the universe, predictability of a dynamic earth, and human interactions with the earth’s geologic and environmental systems.

Essential Standards
This course is designed to address the following North Carolina Essential Standards science strands:

- Explain the Earth’s role as a body in space
- Explain how processes and forces affect the lithosphere
- Understand how human influences affect the lithosphere
- Explain the structure and processes within the hydrosphere
- Evaluate how humans use water
- Understand the structure and processes within the atmosphere
- Analyze patterns of global climate over time
- Explain how the lithosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere individually and collectively affect the biosphere
- Evaluate human behaviors in terms of how likely they are to ensure the ability to live sustainably on Earth

Course Materials:
- 3-Ring binder, pencils, pens (blue or black), highlighter, loose leaf paper.
- Course material will be on MP’s Canvas site, online text, handouts and extra learning material. There is no formal textbook for this class.
- Donations – Box of tissues, copy paper, hand sanitizer, graph paper.
Grading Policy:
Academic evaluation of this course will be conducted in compliance with the approved High School Grading Policy established by Mount Pleasant High School. You will determine your grade by earning points on everything you do for class.

- Quizzes, Projects, Labs etc. - 60%
- Tests/Midterm - 40%
- The final exam will count as 25% of the course grade average.

Final Grades will be based on the following scale, in accordance with Cabarrus School District policy -

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = < 59

Policies & Procedures:
Most students should expect to do about 15 minutes of quality homework Sunday through Thursday doing these activities:

1. Finish whatever assignments you did not finish in class: notes, study guides, & activities.
2. Review notes and assignments done in class. When students do this regularly, they should spend more time on the more recent topics, and do not need to spend as much time on the older topics.
3. Research topics online to read.
4. Organize your notebook/reference manual

Assignments not completed or made up within three days of an absence receive zero points.
It is recommended that you keep track of your grades so that you will be aware of where you stand grade wise

Plagiarism earns a 0% grade under MPHS policy.

Cell phones are not to be used in class.

PACING GUIDE:
The following guide will show the course content and approximate time spent for each unit. These are subject to change.

1) Science skills and Earth’s processes: 1-2 weeks
2) Earth's role in space: 2 weeks
3) Atmosphere and weather: 2 weeks
4) Hydrosphere: 2 weeks
5) Lithosphere: 2-3 weeks (usually broken up into 2 tests)
6) Ecology and Biodiversity: 2-3 weeks
7) Climate change and sustainability: 3-4 weeks
8) Final Exam Review 1 week
Exam (It’s never too early to start studying for your final exam since it may count as 25% of your final grade. Plan on using time over break to study for this important exam.)

Keep this in your Portfolio (3_ring notebook)

Student Signature: _______________________________ 

Parents: May find helpful block schedule info on the class web site.

Parent Signature: _______________________________ Date: ____________

Computer at home

Yes_____ No_____

Internet access at home

Yes_____ No_____