

Science Academy Class Information

Earth Science Lab (2005-2006)

Class Time: Tuesdays, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Location: Bethany Collegiate Church, Route 1 & Concord Road, Havertown, PA

Teacher: Lisa Swieson (610.355.9174, LSwieson@science-resources.org)

Class Web Site: www.academy.science-resources.org/earthsci0506.htm

Class Particulars: Each week, the first 30 minutes of class will be spent reviewing independent readings or assignments and preparing for lab. The remainder of the time will be in lab. The last class session of each term will be devoted to a practical lab exam.

Dress Code: Since each class will include lab work, students should wear comfortable (not baggy) clothing that is easily washable or that you don't mind getting dirty. Long hair should be tied back. No open-toed shoes, bracelets, rings, or loose jewelry. Protective gloves, aprons, and safety glasses will be provided when needed.

Students are expected to bring the following to class each week: notebook, pen/pencil, folder/binder for handouts, and any written assignments or lab prep papers.

Assignments: Students will be sent home each week with these assignments that should be completed before the next class. I am available by phone or email if a student needs help.

- **Readings.** Students will be expected to read about the topic to be covered in lab *before* each week's lab, using a textbook or other book(s) of their own choosing. In a standard middle-school- or high-school-level textbook, this would amount to one chapter per week. An outline of each week's reading assignments is attached.
- **Lab Prep.** Each week, students will receive a short written assignment to help them prepare for the next lab.
- **Lab Report.** A short write-up of each lab will be due the week following the lab. I recommend writing up the lab report Tuesday afternoon or evening, while everything is still fresh in the student's mind.

Grades: Students will receive a grade based on the quality of their written lab reports, class participation/lab technique, and scores on practical lab exams. Grades will be calculated as follows:

- **Lab Reports:** 50% (Each term, I will drop the student's lowest lab score.)
- **Class Participation:** 25%
- **Practical Lab Exam:** 25%

Absence: If a student must miss a class, please let me know ahead of time. Note that, since the student's lowest lab score will be dropped each term, absence need not affect that portion of the student's grade, unless the student misses more than one lab each term.

Lab Safety: Lab safety rules be followed carefully to prevent injury. Students who repeatedly ignore these rules put themselves and their classmates at risk and will be suspended from class with no refund. In addition, students will be expected to pay for equipment that they break.

If you have any questions, now or during the school year, please do not hesitate to call or email me.

Lisa Swieson

Due September 6: Reading Assignment – read chapter about the ocean floor
Lab Prep – complete Pre-Lab for Lab 1