Classroom Policies and Procedures for the 2006-2007 School Year

Earth Science **Room 311** **Mr. Traeger**
Phone: 952-4200 or 952-4243 **e-mail: ttraeger@lcusd.net**
Class Web Site: http://www.lcusd.net/lchs/ttraeger/

Course Description

This is a laboratory course designed to meet and exceed the California State Science Content Standards for the Earth Sciences in Grades 9-12. These standards can be accessed at the following Website: http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/scearth.asp This course satisfies UC section õgòelective credit for science.
The course will focus on the methods and procedures of the following subjects: Geology, Oceanography, Meteorology, and Astronomy. Topics of study under the geology heading will include rocks, minerals, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, mountain building, geologic time, weathering/erosion, and natural resources (water, petroleum, and minerals). Topics of study under the oceanography heading will include ocean currents, waves/tides, air-sea interactions, shoreline/seafloor features, and properties of seawater. Topics of study under the meteorology heading will include solar energy, Earth's atmosphere, global circulation patterns, air masses, fronts, storms, climate patterns, and weather data analysis. Topics of study under the astronomy heading will include the solar system, stars, galaxies, and the universe. Additional topics of study will include techniques of earth science such as maps, aerial photo/image analysis, modeling of earth processes, remote sensing, and geographic information systems. Energy and energy resources will also be studied.

Supplies and Books

Students are expected to bring the following materials to class ***every*** day:

- The course textbook: Spaulding, Nancy E. and Samuel N. Namowitz, 2003. *Earth Science*, McDougal-Littell, Evanston, Illinois.
- A 3-ring notebook stocked with college-ruled paper (8 ½ò x 11ò) and quadrille graph paper (4 squares per inch, 8 ½ò x 11ò). Bound notebooks are acceptable for taking notes, but 3-ring notebooks are recommended for organizing and storing work. You may combine this notebook with other classes.
- Pencils, pens, and a metric ruler (Colored pencils are recommended.)
- Calculator

Class Website

There is a website for this class. The address is **http://www.lcusd.net/lchs/ttraeger/** . The web site is a source for class announcements, PowerPoint notes, classwork/homework assignments, and links to other web sites of interest to the class. Please use the Website often. It exists to ensure your success in this class.

Behavior

Just as the Constitution has a Bill of Rights for all Americans, this class has a Bill of Rights for both students and the teacher. Two very important rights will form the foundation of how we conduct ourselves in this class. They are:

Students have a right to learn! **The teacher has a right to teach!**

In the spirit of these two rights, *we* can work to develop some rules to abide by. These rules can better be described as characteristics that we want to see. The following characteristics are ones that I think will make the classroom a great place to be. What do *you* think?

Characteristics of a Good Student

- Treats other students and the teacher with respect-this means NO put-downs!
- Does not disrupt the class by coming to class tardy, lingering around class after the bell has rung, shouting out in class, talking to other students, and/or passing notes around while the teacher is teaching
- Is true to her/himself and others (does not cheat on exams, copy other peopleôs work, plagiarize materials, or lie to others)
- Does her/his very best

Characteristics of a Good Teacher

- Treats students with respect
- Knows her/his stuff
- Is true to her/himself and others
- Does her/his very best

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Characteristics of a Good Student

- Turns assignments in complete and on time
- Keeps her/his work area and classroom clean and safe
- Refrains from eating and chewing gum in class. Drinking water is okay.
- Gives attention to the teacher and raises his/her hand when there is a question to be raised, an answer to be given, or a request to leave the seat

Characteristics of a Good Teacher

- Is prompt in grading, recording, and returning student work
- Ensures that classroom is kept clean and safe
- Refrains from eating and chewing gum in class. Drinking water is okay.
- Gives equal attention to all students

As you may have noticed, the characteristics of a good student are almost the same as the characteristics of a good teacher. Is this just a coincidence? What do you think?

The following will show the progression of consequences for indecent behavior. The teacher reserves the right to use any or all of these to ensure that students have the right to learn and the teacher has the right to teach.

- verbal warnings
- reassignment of seating location
- ñtime outsòaway from class
- student/teacher conferences
- lowered citizenship grade
- calls home and/or emails to parents/legal guardians. I prefer email.
- parent/student/teacher conferences
- detention assignment
- referral to the assistant-principal
- suspension
- expulsion

Please note that the last two consequences are out of my hands. These consequences are more severe and are at the discretion of the assistant-principal.

A final word on behavior: You have the ability to enforce the teacher rules just as I have the ability to enforce the student rules. If you see that I am not meeting the expectations, let me know. I will be sure to correct myself!

Grading: Academic

The following categorizes each type of assignment and explains the details of each assignment:

- **Tests (50% Weighting)** will be given when a significant amount of related material has been covered. This will generally be at the end of a chapter or combined unit and will occur about once every two weeks. **Quizzes** may be given in between tests. Cheating will result in a zero for the test, and a referral to the assistant principal if it is repeated. Students that miss a test due to an **excused absence** will be allowed to take the test upon their return to class. Per school rules, students will have number of days absent plus 1 day to get the test made up. A different test may be given. Tests will be worth anywhere from 25 to 50 points, depending on the amount of material covered. Students will be allowed to do test corrections in class when we go over the test. The student will be responsible for doing these test corrections on a separate sheet of paper. The test corrections will serve as a learning log in lieu of sending the test home. The student is also responsible for calculating the amount of points that should be given back. See the chart on the next page.

The following shows the percentage that will be added back to the test score according to the original grade received on the test. For example: If you received 30/40 on a test, that would be 75%. 75% is considered a C, so you would get 6% back. 6% of 40 points is 2.4, so you would round up and add 2.5 points back to your score. Your new score would now be 32.5/40. Corrections are not available for the final exams.

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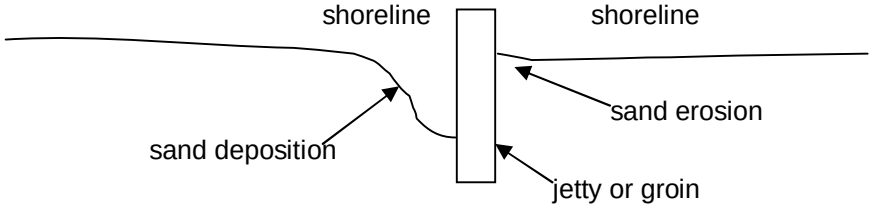
Letter Grade	A	B	C	D	F
% of Original Test Score	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%

Sample test questions follow:

Multiple Choice (1 point each)

1. Based on the following overhead view diagram, which way is the longshore current moving?

a. left to right
b. right to left



2. A seismograph station at Northridge, CA records an earthquake magnitude of 6.7. The magnitude recorded at a seismograph station in La Cañada, CA will be

a. more than at Northridge
b. less than at Northridge
c. the same as at Northridge
d. There is not enough information to answer this question.

Matching (1 point each)

Please match each location with the most correct volcanic landform. Each letter may be used more than once. Mark the answer on your scan sheet.

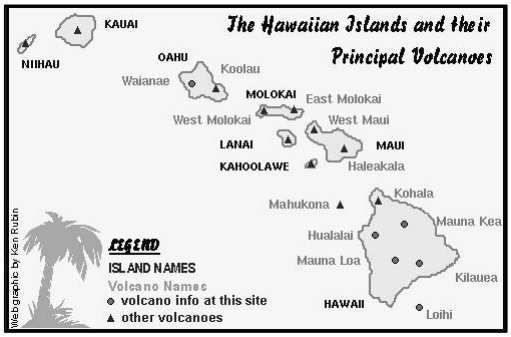
1. Mt. St. Helens (Washington State)
2. Dantes Peak (depicted in Washington State)
3. Kilauea (Hawaii)
4. Paricutin (Mexico)
5. Crater Lake (Oregon)

a. shield volcano
b. caldera
c. composite volcano
d. crater
e. cinder cone volcano

Short Answer/Response

1. Refer to the diagram at the right to answer the following question. How were the Hawaiian islands formed? Why is Kauai (the island farthest to the northwest) smaller in area and lower in elevation than the big island of Hawaii (the island farthest to the southeast)? (5 points)

2. Briefly list and describe 4 factors that may lead to increased damage, injury, and loss of life in an earthquake. (5 points)



- **Classwork, Labs, and Projects (40% Weighting)** is probably the most important part of the course. Classwork includes labs, note taking, worksheets, and in-class assignments. Notebooks may be inspected at random intervals to ensure that students are taking notes. Students will be expected to work with partners and/or in groups. Safety is very important during labs, so see the section entitled ñSafetyò for more details. It is difficult to make up labs when a student is absent, so it is very important to be in attendance every day. Labs range in point value from around 15 to 30 points each. We may correct some assignments together in class. Copying another personôs work is considered cheating and will earn a zero for the assignment and a

referral to honor court if repeated. Projects will be assigned periodically. These may require some research and homework outside of class. Their completion may require some work over weekends if students procrastinate. You can count on having one project per quarter. The use of http://www.turnitin.com may be required before submitting written products. Projects must be documented using MLA bibliography and parenthetical documentation, or they will not be accepted.

- **Homework (10% Weighting)** can be expected to be assigned on Monday through Thursday nights. Homework will be used to reinforce concepts introduced in class. When homework is assigned, it should be recorded in your notebook or school agenda. Its completion should require anywhere from 15 to 45 minutes of time. I will check and stamp homework for completion on the day it is due at the start of class. Homework packets will be collected for grading when the test for a unit is given. Homework that does not have an on-time completion stamp will be given half credit. Homework assignments are generally around 5 points each. Homework will usually consist of reading the textbook, answering some questions, doing vocabulary, writing a short essay, and/or doing some work on the Internet. Please check the right side of the white board in class (and web site as a backup) *every day* for assignments and their due dates. Copying another personôs work is considered cheating and will earn a zero for the assignment and a referral to honor court if repeated.

- **Extra Credit** will be used sparingly. When done, extra credit will be applied towards the classwork category. Students should make sure to do any extra credit that is offered.

- **Late makeup work** due to an excused absence must be made up within the number of days absent plus one to receive full credit. **Late makeup work must be marked "absent" with the date(s) the student was absent in order to receive full credit**. Late work for any other reason besides an excused absence will receive ½ credit, up to 2 weeks from the time it was assigned. Otherwise, a zero grade will be assigned. **It is the student's responsibility to check the late work file and ask the teacher for any missing work!**

The following grading scale will determine your letter grade for this class. Grades will be calculated using a weighted percentage scale. Assignments with a greater amount of points will have more of an influence on your grade.

Grading Scale: Academic			
90% to 91.99% = A-	92% to 97.99% = A	98% to 100%	= A+
80% to 81.99% = B-	82% to 87.99% = B	88% to 89.99%	= B+
70% to 71.99% = C-	72% to 77.99% = C	78% to 79.99%	= C+
60% to 61.99% = D-	62% to 67.99% = D	68% to 69.99%	= D+
0% to 59.99% = F			

Grading: Citizenship

- Proper **behavior**, **participation**, and consistent *timely* **attendance** are the key ingredients to obtaining a good citizenship grade.
- **Participation** in this class is mandatory. You will not learn if you do not participate. I reserve the right to determine each studentôs participation grade based upon my observations of each student.
- Remember that you need a minimum cumulative citizenship grade point average of 2.5 in order to be eligible to walk in the graduation ceremony.

The grading scale for citizenship is as follows:

Grading Scale: Citizenship				
	Outstanding (O)	**Satisfactory (S)**	**Needs Improvement (N)**	**Unsatisfactory (U)**
# of unexcused tardies in one semester	0-3	4-6	7-9	10 or more
# of unexcused absences in one semester	0	0	0-1	2 or more

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Suggestions for Success

- When in doubt, ask. I am here for you in room 311 every day from 7:20 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. and by appointment. When Iôm not at school, I can be contacted at the phone number and e-mail address listed in the header.
- After you are absent, check with me to see what you missed. Handouts can be found in the file box near the front door.
- Do not get behind on your assignments!
- Read the text carefully and take notes while you read. Taking notes includes drawing pictures.
- *Remember* to turn your assignments in!
- Donôt be afraid to come in for help. I am here for ***you***!

Safety

Because this is a science class, we must be continually aware of safe behavior and best practices in the lab/classroom. Let me remind you that ñSafety is no accident.ò We must take precautions to ensure the health and safety of both ourselves and others.

As a reminder, I have selected a few of the most important rules:

- ñNever fool around in the laboratory. Horseplay, practical jokes, and pranks are dangerous and prohibited.ò Let me remind you that horseplay while working on labs will result in a lowered score and zero score if the behavior persists.
- ñFollow all written and verbal instructions carefully. If you do not understand a direction or part of a procedure, ask the instructor before proceeding.ò
- ñWhen first entering a science room, do not touch any equipment, chemicals, or other materials in the laboratory area until you are instructed to do so.ò
- *Always* tell the instructor if you have an accident or if you injure yourself!
- *Always* keep your work area clean and make sure to clean up after yourself!
- *Always* wear goggles and proper clothing when working with chemicals, heat, or glassware. Your eyes are your most precious sense. Goggles can be replaced, your eyes cannot!

I am looking forward to being your teacher for the next year. Letôs make science fun by keeping it safe!

Detach along the dotted line and return signed by the due date for **10 points of homework credit**.

Acknowledgement

Please print your name, sign your name, and enter the date to indicate that you have read these policies and procedures. Have your parent/guardian sign this sheet as well to indicate that he/she has read them also. When you are done, detach this sheet along the dotted line and return it to me no later than **Friday, September 8, 2006**. **This signature sheet is worth 10 points as a homework assignment!**

Student Name (print)_____ Signature_____

Period_____ Date_____

Parent/Guardian Name (print)_____ Signature_____

Date_____