

**MVLA
2025-26
COURSE INFORMATION SHEET**

Course Title: **Earth Science**

CTE Pathway Sequence (if applicable)

School: **Alta Vista**

UC/CSU requirement: **N/A**

Textbook and/or other learning resources: **Earth Science by Savvas, 2017 Prentice Hall and various online resources (e.g. <https://gizmos.explorellearning.com/>)**

Course Description/Student Learning Outcomes:

In this foundational biology course, students will follow California's [Next Generation Science Standards](#) to

- examine the processes governing the formation, evolution, and workings of the solar system and universe.
- apply scientific reasoning and evidence from ancient Earth materials, meteorites, and other planetary surfaces to construct an account of Earth's formation and early history.
- develop models and explanations for the ways that feedbacks between different Earth systems control the appearance of Earth's surface.
- model the flow of energy between different components of the weather system and how this affects chemical cycles such as the carbon cycle.
- develop a model to illustrate how Earth's internal and surface processes operate at different spatial and temporal scales to form continental and ocean-floor features.
- analyze geoscience data to make the claim that one change to Earth's surface can create feed-backs that cause changes to other Earth systems.
- examine the ways that human activities cause feed-backs that create changes to other systems.
- develop a quantitative model to describe the cycling of carbon among the hydrosphere, atmosphere, geosphere, and biosphere.
- construct an argument based on evidence about the simultaneous coevolution of Earth's systems and life on Earth.
- develop a model based on evidence of Earth's interior to describe the cycling of matter by thermal convection.
- use a model to describe how variations in the flow of energy into and out of Earth's systems result in changes in climate.
- plan and conduct an investigation of the properties of water and its effects on Earth materials and surface processes.
- evaluate evidence of the past and current movements of continental and oceanic crust and the theory of plate tectonics to explain the ages of crustal rocks.

Course Outline/Units of Study/[CTE Industry Standards](#)(If applicable to your course):

SEMESTER A

☐ **Science Basics**

☐ **Earth's Materials**

☐ **Intro to Earth Science**

☐ **Minerals**

☐ **Rocks**

☐ **Earth's Resources**

☐ **Sculpturing Earth's Surface**

☐ **Weathering**

☐ **Soil**

☐ **Running Water and Groundwater**

☐ **Glaciers**

☐ **Deserts and Wind**

SEMESTER B

☐ **Forces Within**

☐ **Plate Tectonics**

- ☐ Volcanoes
- ☐ Mountain Building
- ☐ Historical Geology
 - ☐ Geologic Time
 - ☐ Earth's History
- ☐ Meteorology
 - ☐ Earth's Atmosphere
 - ☐ Moisture, Clouds, Precipitation
 - ☐ Weather
 - ☐ Climate

Assessment and Grading ([BP 5121](#) / [AR 5121](#)): To ensure that every student has an equal opportunity to demonstrate their learning, the course instructors implement aligned grading practices and common assessments with the same frequency.

1. Grading categories and their percentage weights:

Daily assignments- 45%
Labs, Projects- 20%
Quizzes, Tests- 20%
Classroom Habits- 15%

2. Achievement evidence collected within each grading category:

Classroom Habits: This category includes measures of classwork productivity, warm-ups, interactive notebook organization, goal reflections, behavior and participation.

All other categories: Demonstration of biology content understanding measured by daily assignments, notes, labs, projects, CER's, quizzes, tests, posters, etc.

3. Grading scales:

A: 100-90% **B:** 89-80% **C:** 79-70% **D:** 69-60%

4. Homework/outside of class practices ([AR 6154](#)):

No homework assigned at AVHS, but students can complete unfinished assignments at home.

5. Excused absence make-up practices ([Education Code 48205\(b\)](#)):

-If a student knows about an upcoming absence in advance, they should notify the teacher as soon as possible, in case that they **may** be able to receive the work in advance—though this is not always guaranteed.

-It is the student's responsibility to check with the teacher as soon as possible when they return from any absence to be informed on how to get caught up.

-Makeup work from each semester is accepted **up until the second to last week of that specific semester**, with no penalties.

6. Academic integrity violation practices ([LAHS Academic Integrity Policy](#) / [MVHS Academic Integrity Policy](#)):

The Board expects that students will not cheat, lie, plagiarize, or commit other acts of academic dishonesty. Any work completed with unauthorized aid (**copying someone else's work**) will be considered cheating. Check with your teacher if you are unsure or unclear about their expectations regarding the use of the internet or any assignment guidelines.

Copying **notes** is acceptable but copying another student's **assignment** is **NOT ALLOWED**. "Working together" on an assignment is different from copying another person's paper. You may work together but you must write your own answer in your own words!

7. Late work practices:

-Late assignments will be accepted **up until the second to last week of the semester that they were**

assigned, with no penalties.

-To make up a lab you **must speak with your teacher to schedule this during 6th period study hall.**

-Late lab and project make-ups are not **possible** during the **last week of the semester.**

-*Classroom Work Habits* points can only be made up by earning **extra** points, **through participation**, during other weeks.

-Points will be "on hold" if any unit test or assessment is incomplete. The points will be released once the assessment is made up. If the assessment is not made up, any points earned in that specific unit will be converted to elective credit instead of science credit if you need to be closed out of a class.

*Students should speak with the teacher promptly if they feel they have a special situation

8. Revision practices:

-*Classroom Habits* cannot be "revised" or "submitted" late on google classroom. See above on how to make up the points.

-All other assignments can be revised for full credit.

-All revisions are due by the second to last week of the semester in which the assignment was assigned
(Students must follow directions for revisions given for the assignment.)

9. Extra credit practices:

-Extra credit given at the request of the student **only if all current assignments are completed** and submitted.

-Extra points can be earned weekly through warm ups, as well as attendance/punctuality, engagement and Participation, and even helping others (*For "attendance/punctuality" to count you must be engaged and productive). Each time earns a tally mark:

4 warm ups = 1 point

5 participation/engagement/assisting peers = 1 point

5 punctuality/attendance/engagement = 1 point

10. Additional grading practices:

Quizzes

-Quizzes are worth 1 point.

-You **must pass** the quiz with a minimum score of a '**C-**' to earn the point.

Tests

-Points per test depend on score: A= 3, B=2, C=1 (see grading scales above for percentages)

Earning 15 points is the equivalent of earning 1 credit for Earth Science. Once you have earned and accumulated 75 points, and you have a passing grade of at least a C- (69.5%) they will be submitted to our administrator, to be placed on your transcript as 5 credits in Earth Science. **If you do not have a passing grade, you will be required to raise it to "passing" before the points can be submitted.**

11. LMS Used:

NA

Instructors' email addresses:

brandi.filbert@mvla.net

Additional information:

Please

-Respect your teacher and peers by **paying attention, listening, and positively contributing** to class discussions. This will create a better environment and experience for all of us.

-No headphone use unless listening to music during **independent work**.

-Limit use of electronic devices. Disregard for this will result in no *Classroom Habits* points for that day! Remember that these points are like extra credit and do have an affect on your grade, earning more can actually boost your grade.