James Clemens High School
11306 County Line Road
Madison, AL 35756

Phone: 256-216-5313
Extension: 95153
Email: kakennedy@madisoncity.k12.al.us

Course Syllabus

Astronomy Fall 2025 & Spring 2026
Instructor: K. Kennedy

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am excited to join your child on our journey this semester into Earth and Space Science. Earth and Space Science is an upper-level science class in which we study the Earth's structure and systems as well as its place in the Universe. There is an emphasis on research, application, and creation, so students are expected to independently engage in all learning activities. I encourage you and your student to contact me with any concerns as soon as possible. I am available to answer questions and address concerns about the progress of your student by email and phone. Please review the syllabus and submit your acknowledgement of the syllabus by signing below and returning.

Thank you,
Kelsey Kennedy

My child and I have read and discussed the classroom syllabus.

Student Name (Print) _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Print) _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Email Address(es) _____

Phone number(s) _____ (Cell) _____ (Home) _____ (Work)

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Course Syllabus

Astronomy Fall 2024 & Spring 2025

Instructor: K. Kennedy

Course Description:

Earth and Space science is a broad branch of science that studies different systems of the Earth, such as weather and climate, plate tectonics, astronomy, and the structure of the Earth itself. Students will use real world problems to learn how to gather observations and make predictions about what is happening in the world around them and what causes those events to happen.

Course Objectives:

The objectives of this course are: 1) Earth's place in the Universe; 2) Earth's systems; 3) Weather and Climate; 4) The geological history of the Earth; 5) Earth's ever-changing nature.

Classroom Rules and Expectations:

1. **Respect your classmates. Be a good classroom citizen in the classroom and through all interactions on Schoology. The classroom and laboratory are to be regarded as a safe and supportive learning environment.**
2. **Attend class and be on time.**
3. **Independently engage in learning activities during lecture and participate in collaborative discussions.**
4. **Participate and act in a professional manner. During interactive activities, collaborate meaningfully with your classmates during group assignments.**
5. **Utilize lab materials and astronomical tools in a safe, responsible manner.**
6. **Students will follow all school rules and policies for James Clemens and Madison City Schools.**

Accommodations: Requests for accommodations for this course are welcomed from students and parents.

Concerning Laptop Utilization: Student laptops should not be hard-wired to the network or have print capabilities. 2. Use of discs, flash drives, jump drives, or other USB devices will not be allowed on Madison City computers. 3. Neither the teacher, nor the school is responsible for broken, stolen, or lost laptops. **4. School issued devices will be used at the individual discretion of the teacher.**

Classroom Management Plan/ Discipline

- Verbal reprimand
- Conference with student, initiate parent contact
- Withdrawal of privilege(s), initiate parent contact
- Other consequences determined to be reasonable and appropriate by the school administration.

Grading Policy:

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Test grades will account for 70% of the 9-weeks grade, with the remaining 30% being determined by quiz/daily grades. The grading scale is as follows: A (90-100%), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (65-69), and F (below 65). Grades will be a reflection of mastery of the standards. Make sure all absences are excused as class work can be made up and graded for excused absences only. The final exam counts for 20% of the final grade.

Make-Up Work Policy:

Students must provide an excuse for missed tests and assignments, as is Madison City School policy. Because students will have home access to course content and assignments at all times, my expectations about deadlines for weekly assignments are high. **Late assignments will be accepted for two weeks after the due date**. **Anything submitted after two weeks will remain a zero.**

**** Zeros will be placed in the grade book until assignments are made up. This is to ensure a student's grades do not reflect an average higher than they actually have. This is a schoolwide policy at JCHS.**

**** If students do not turn in work, they will fill out a google form request to have the assignment graded. This includes absent work. This allows me to have a list of assignments to look at and gives the students a record showing they've notified me of last or excused absence work.**

Course Materials:

- School-issued Chromebook is **required**, as we use many online resources.
- notebook paper in a binder
  - OR Notebooks (1-2) with a folder for loose-leaf handouts.
- Pencils/Pens
- supplies that are not required but will be helpful:
  - Highlighters
  - Index cards
  - Scissors
  - 3 ring hole punch

Texts/Required Readings:

Explorations, An Introduction to Astronomy, 8th edition, Arny and Schneider, McGraw-Hill, 2017. (Students will not take books home, we utilize a class copy. Checked out books will be available upon request)

Technology in the Classroom:

Technological advances present many new opportunities, but also create some problems. Please use the following two resources as a guide to effectively use technology within Madison City Schools.

MCS AI Acceptable Use Policy:

JCHS Chromebook Troubleshooting:

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Cell Phone and Personal Device Policy:
Please refer to the Madison City policies on personal electronic devices for any questions about acceptable usage.

18 – WEEK PLAN*	
Week 1	**Unit 1 – *Astronomy*** Learning procedures and routines that we will use for Earth and Space History of Space Science Essential Science and Mathematical skills Regions of the Solar System
Week 2	Cycles and Motion of the universe Kepler's Laws of Planetary Motion and Newton's Laws of Motion and Universal Gravity
Week 3	Using Light to Determine Motion Doppler Shift, Spectral Analysis
Week 4	Duality of Light and its Historical Importance The Electromagnetic Spectrum (EMS)
Week 5	What Can We Learn from Starlight? Stellar Spectra and HR Diagrams
Week 6	Unit 1 Test and portfolio
Week 7	**Unit 2 - Earth's History** Layers of the Earth Types of Rock
Week 8	Geological Time Dating Techniques Mass Extinction Events
Week 9	Midterm Project and test
	**** End of the Grading period****
Week 10	**Unit 3 - *Plate Tectonics and Geological Systems*** Plate Tectonics Earth's internal and external structure
Week 11	Earthquakes, volcanoes, and other geologic hazards Mechanical and chemical weathering
Week 12	Unit 3 Test **Unit 4 - *Weather*** Energy Transfer
Week 13	Water Cycle Clouds
Week 14	Weather Precipitation
Week 15 (Week of Thanksgiving)	Unit 4 test
Week 16	**Unit 6 - *Climate and Severe Weather***

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	Climate Climate Regions
Week 17	Meteorology and severe weather events
Week 18	Communicating meteorology and real world events
Week 19	***Final Exams***

* The syllabus serves as a guide for both the teacher and student; however, during the term it may become necessary to make additions, deletions, or substitutions. Adequate notice will be provided to students of any necessary changes. More detailed information about classroom resources will be provided through Schoology throughout the course term.