

## Meteorology Class Syllabus

### Kevin A. Knowles

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Room 122

Office Hours: 11:10-12:10 (4<sup>th</sup>)

$\frac{1}{2}$  hour before & after school  
and by arrangement

### Course Objectives:

- Understand & use scientific concepts-interconnection between & among systems
- Know and use the skills and processes of science - the scientific method
- Understand the nature and contexts of science and technology and application

**Texts:** Since there is no sanctioned textbook slated for this class, Mr. Knowles will be utilizing an introductory college textbook to supply you with reading packets for the required information that will be covered in this course. You are highly encouraged to seek out other resources to this text. Information will also come from online lab use of the WeatherBug curriculum & weather station data analysis - you should read all of the information within each lab to reinforce your learning.

**Required Materials:** 1" Notebook Binder with lined notebook paper. Mount Si Planner (for passes) & journal notebook (must be a composition notebook ONLY!)\*  
A calculator that has 10+ places on the readout screen is **highly encouraged**.

**Course Description:** The study of the atmosphere (meteorology) has long been of great interest to humans on the earth. The earth provides us with naturally occurring events in a state of constant change, many as challenges in the form of natural disasters created by weather. Dealing with weather and climate is an inevitable part of our lives because it often influences the decisions we make daily.

This course is designed to provide you with a basic understanding of the processes that create weather and move systems, small to large scale, across the surface of the earth. With this knowledge of the workings of the atmosphere, you can better understand daily forecasts and begin to make predictions on your own.

**Equipment & Supplies:** It is the responsibility of all students to properly care for ALL classroom equipment and supplies, as well as keep the classroom clean. Any intentional destruction of school property is regarded as a zero tolerance offense.

**Mount Si Planner Information:** The Planner is to be brought to class daily and serve as your hall pass & our home-to-school communication. If you lose it, you must replace it (\$8) for use in this class.

## Grading:

30% Tests and Quizzes - Quizzes will be given periodically while covering course content in each chapter. A unit test will complete a specific unit covered.

30% Labs 20% classwork, homework, group work, and reports/presentations, etc.

20% Daily Participation - It is important to be in class every day so you can learn.

In addition to being in class, you must make all effort possible to **actively participate** in lectures and discussions, cooperative group and lab work.

**Journals** - You are **required** to keep a journal notebook with you to use on a daily basis as determined by Mr. Knowles. You will put down your thoughts and ideas about meteorology in this journal. This journal **must** be in a **specified composition notebook ONLY**, and will be graded primarily on the basis of successfully completing a required entry with complete thought.

Extra Credit - A once-a-month opportunity to maintain or improve your grade. It can be a summary of a current newspaper, magazine, or Internet article related to meteorology (**in your own words** and typed-1 page minimum) or a physical article. Either choice must be presented to the class on the designated Friday (**20 points**).

## Course Evaluation\*:

100-93% = A

89.9-87% = B+

82.9-80% = B-

76.9-73% = C

92.9-90% = A-

86.9-83% = B

79.7%-77% = C+

72.9-70% = C-

69.9-67% = D+

66.9-60% = D

\*Standard grade percentage breakdown

59.9% or less = F (See me for support if at this level so you can pass this course!)

**Note for both parents and students:** A grade report can be accessed online at any time. However, please be aware that all assignments with a specific due date will not appear immediately on the report but posted 1 week later after grading.

## Classroom Rules/Expectations:

**Note:** All Mount Si High School Rules (planner- pgs. 5-19) are strictly enforced!

**Respect** is the overarching guiding principle in this class and in life - Respect for yourself, respect for Mr. Knowles, your classmates & for the classroom at all times!

- ✓ Come to class on time, prepared to learn, and have all necessary materials.
- ✓ **NO** copying from classmates at any time, or cheating on tests and assignments.
- ✓ Follow all class/lab safety rules without any reminders. Never jeopardize the safety or health of yourself or others, especially while conducting lab activities.
- ✓ Disruptive behavior that affects my ability to teach or affects other students' learning will not be tolerated - may result in your removal from the class.
- ✓ **All** electronic devices (cell phones, IPODs, cameras, laser pens, etc.) **must** be turned off prior to class - securely stored away in backpack. **NO** food allowed in class (**includes candy**) - water only allowed in clear bottle with secured top. However, discrete gum chewing(disposed properly)and breath mints are allowed.

## Classroom Procedures:

- ✓ Students are quietly in their seats when bell at beginning of class period sounds (getting out Planners and recording daily assignments), and in seats when ending bell sounds for dismissal (Mr. Knowles will dismiss you, not the bell!). Coming to class late is not acceptable; it hinders your learning and interrupts the learning of others. 1% per tardy will be deducted from your grade as a result.
- ✓ Hall passes: A maximum of three opportunities for every student per quarter. In planner, Mr. Knowles will sign and approve pass and students will use to leave classroom for personal reasons for a short time period. If not used by end of semester, students may cash them in for **10 points of extra credit**.
- ✓ \*Journal in the form of a Notebook: **Every** student must keep a journal in the form of a \*notebook. There will be an end-of-quarter check of this notebook, and a final grade will be assigned on overall organization and completeness of thought. The grade will be part of the overall daily participation grade received. The journal must be in a \*composition notebook ONLY, and always ready for classroom use. Specific instructions what to include will be provided.
- ✓ Make-up work: Students are responsible on their own for making up work missed when absent on an **excused absence only** within two days upon return. All assignments will be available at all times for students on the Assignment Bulletin Board to access missed work. Labs are made up by arrangement and the student's responsibility to make up right away - cannot be made up after 1 week regardless of circumstances - Journal entries in class cannot be made up.
- ✓ Late Work: Work is due on time on the date assigned. 10% deduction of grade points 1<sup>st</sup> day late, 50% max. 2<sup>nd</sup> day unless prior arrangements have been made. **No** late work will be accepted after 2 days from due date, and last week of qtr.
- ✓ Study Assistance: Arrangements can be made to receive extra help after school. Please see Mr. Knowles for this opportunity if you feel extra help is needed.

## Course Outline: Proposed schedule for Meteorology course: 1<sup>st</sup> Semester

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|---|---|
| ❖ Chapter 1: The Earth and its Atmosphere         | ❖ Chapter 9: Air Pressure, Forces, and Winds                  |
| ❖ Chapter 2: Warming the Earth and the Atmosphere | ❖ Chapter 10/11: Winds: Small-Scale, Local and Global Systems |
| ❖ Chapter 3: Seasonal and Daily Temperatures      | ❖ Chapter 12: Air Masses and Fronts                           |
| ❖ Chapter 5: Atmospheric Moisture                 | ❖ Chapter 13: Middle-Latitude Cyclones                        |
| ❖ Chapter 6: Condensation                         | ❖ Chapter 14: Weather Forecasting                             |
| ❖ Chapter 7: Stability and Cloud Development      | ❖ Chapter 15/16: Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, and Hurricanes     |
| ❖ Chapter 8: Precipitation                        |   |

# Verification Form

## Meteorology Syllabus

**PLEASE RETURN BY FRIDAY September 3<sup>rd</sup>!**  
**None accepted later than this date for first points towards  
your grade! Start with an "A" and get them signed and in!**

To the Parent(s):

Please call with any questions and/or concerns during my office hours. Please sign this form to verify that you have read through this class syllabus, and understand my expectations for this course.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Message including e-mail address & phone

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