

NEW YORK STATE REGENTS SCIENCE LAB REQUIREMENT

The Physical Setting: Earth Science is a course based on New York State standards, which ends with a Regents Examination. A *minimum* of **1200 minutes** of hands-on laboratory experiences with **satisfactory lab reports are required** in addition to five, forty minute periods per week of classroom instruction.

***If students do NOT meet the 1200 minute written lab requirement, they:**

- **Are NOT ALLOWED to sit for any part of the Regents Exam!**
- **Must REPEAT the class AND lab next school year (for the whole year)!**
- **Because SCIENCE LABS ARE NOT OFFERED IN SUMMER SCHOOL!**

Each student must submit satisfactory written reports.

- The lab reports must be kept on file with the school for at least *six months after the date of the Regents exam. *(At McKinley we keep labs until students are no longer enrolled or until they graduate.)
- During the course of the school year, the folder containing the lab reports will kept by the teacher.
- The folder will be available for review by the student upon request.
- Lab reports are not allowed out of the classroom! To avoid lost/missing work, and to prevent plagiarism!

LAB GRADES**Report Cards:**


On quarterly report cards, a student's lab grade will appear as one of the following:

S = Satisfactory (student is making good progress toward the 1200 minute requirement)

U = Unsatisfactory (student is NOT making good progress toward the 1200 minute requirement)

*A grade of "S" in the first, second, or third marking period does NOT mean a student has completed the 1200 minute lab requirement; it is ONLY an indicator of progress made!

Individual Lab Reports:

 = **Passing**

Student has completed the written report properly and will receive minutes toward the 1200 minute lab requirement. The # of minutes awarded is determined by the teacher and will depend on the class time needed to complete the lab. Students will NOT be given "extra" minutes for taking longer to finish!

INC = Incomplete

It is the student's responsibility to seek extra help from the teacher **AFTER SCHOOL** to correct the lab in order to make it satisfactory. The student will then receive lab credit, and **the grade will change**. If labs are corrected after the marking period in which they were assigned, students will receive minutes toward lab credit, but **the grade will NOT change**. Since many lab activities require equipment to be set up, there may be a time limit for making up lab work due to availability of materials.

0 = Missing Lab Report

If a student is absent from some or all of the days spent on a lab, s/he will NOT be allowed to COPY another student's work to "catch up." Students will be asked to complete ALL missed lab work independently to show that they understand the material. Students will be allowed ONE WEEK from the due date of the lab to stay **AFTER SCHOOL** to make up any work missed while absent.

***LAB DEADLINE**

ALL written lab reports must be turned in or corrected for credit **BEFORE JUNE 1st!**

No labs will be accepted after the last school day in May, and the 1200 minute requirement will be calculated based on passing work in a student's lab folder. At that time students will be told whether they are **eligible or ineligible** to sit for the Regents Exam in Earth Science.

PART D

The Earth Science Regents course is the only commencement level science course that requires a timed hands-on component to the Regents Exam. Part D of the Earth Science Regents Exam requires students to complete 3 timed lab tasks and answer written questions based on each task. The grade for the Part D lab practical component is later factored in as part of the student's final exam grade.

*Students who do not meet the 1200 minute written lab requirement will NOT be allowed to take the Part D lab practical, because it is a part of the Regents Exam.

*The Part D lab practical MUST be taken before EVERY written Earth Science Regents Exam! Part D scores may NOT be carried over from previous times the test was taken. If a student misses the Part D, but takes the written exam, a grade of zero will be calculated for the Part D, and the student will automatically lose 15 points on their final exam grade!

The topics covered by the Part D Lab component to the Regents Exam include:

Mineral Identification

Rock Identification

Locating an Earthquake Epicenter

Constructing and Analyzing Elliptical Orbits

LAB SAFETY

The following rules apply at all times to ensure the safety of ALL participants in Earth Science Lab:

- **NO food, beverage, OR chewing gum is allowed in the lab classroom!**
 - DANGER: Contamination with chemicals or other harmful substances!
- **NO horseplay/pranks/practical jokes will be tolerated in the lab classroom!**
 - DANGER: Injury/harm to self or others! Damage to furniture or equipment that cannot be replaced!
- **Do NOT touch ANYTHING until you are instructed to do so!**
 - DANGER: Injury/harm to self or others; damage to furniture or lab equipment!
 - DANGER: Compromising lab setup so that the whole class may not be able to participate!
- **Students MUST read ALL directions BEFORE they will be allowed to complete any lab activity!**
 - DANGER: Incorrectly completing the lab and having to re-do the whole assignment/activity.
- **Report all unsafe conditions IMMEDIATELY to the teacher!**
 - DANGER: Improper clean-up (**accidents, spills, injury, breakage, etc.**) could cause harm/injury to you or someone else who finds the mess later on!
- **If it's WET and it's NOT YOURS, DON'T touch it!**
 - DANGER: Blood may contain pathogens that may transmit disease and/or cause illness!
 - DANGER: Liquids may be harmful! Fumes may make you sick, acids/bases can burn your skin/clothes, chemicals may stain your clothes/skin, and some are sticky and hard to remove.
- **Know the location of ALL safety equipment, and how to use it in case of emergency!**

McKinley High School Science Department Lab Safety Contract

AGREEMENT

I, _____ (print student's name) have read and agree to follow all of the safety rules set forth in this contract.

- I realize that I must obey these rules to ensure my own safety, and that of my fellow students and teachers.
- I will cooperate to the fullest extent with my instructor and fellow students to maintain a safe science lab environment.
- I will also closely follow the oral and written instructions provided by the instructor.

I am aware that any violation of this safety contract that results in unsafe conduct in the laboratory or misbehavior on my part may result in my being removed from the lab classroom, detention, receiving a failing grade, and/or further disciplinary action.

Student signature

Date

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We feel that you should be informed regarding McKinley High School's effort to create and maintain a safe science classroom/laboratory environment.

With the cooperation of teachers, parents, and students, a carefully considered set of safety guidelines can eliminate, prevent, and correct possible hazards.

You should be aware of the safety instructions your son or daughter will receive before s/he will be allowed to participate in any laboratory work. Please read the list of safety rules above.

No student will be permitted to perform laboratory activities unless this contract is signed by both the student and parent/guardian and is on file with the teacher.

Your signature on this contract indicates that you have read this Student Safety Contract, are aware of the measures taken to ensure the safety of your student in the science laboratory, and will instruct your student to uphold his or her agreement to follow these rules and procedures in the laboratory.

Parent/Guardian signature

Date

You may contact the instructor at any time by e-mail ebbufano@buffaloschools.org
(please include your name and the name of your student).