

Welcome to Science!

I am Mr. Hinz, Earth Science Teacher and Soccer Coach here at Thomas Stone High School.

In my private life, I am a Retired Naval Officer (23 years) that specialized in Weather and Oceanography and currently I work an animal rescue farm (Travellers Rest Farm Sanctuary) with more than 50 animals including Horses (30+), Goats, Sheep, Dogs, Cats, Rabbits, Geese, Ducks, and Chickens (and more join us each month).

Earth Systems is not just a class I teach, it's an integral part of my life and YOURS! I want to teach "everyday" science. I want students to connect what we are learning to their lives...where they live. Science is all around us and a large part of our lives today and into the future. If your student says they don't see why Science is important, or that they are bored with it...let me know! I WILL help them make a connection! Our world depends on them to understand it and critically think about it!

This is THE STUDENTS' education...not mine, not their families or guardians. THEY are the focus and THEY need to own it. That means that they have to suit up, show up, and DO THE WORK. They are rising adults and will need to take ownership of this as their JOB. Their grades are theirs to earn. I will not give "extra credit." They may get to earn the right to redo work by doing enrichment work...but there will not be participation grades or extra credit. As rising adults, they need to learn that you NEED to work well and demonstrate value to get the pay-off you WANT.

I do realize that they are still children. I recognize "bad days" (everyone has them) and that they will act out if things aren't going well. Those things will be handled case-by-case, and when it's just kids being kids...well...that happens. When it crosses certain lines of behavior, then the standards of conduct for Charles County Schools apply. This includes online/virtual or class meetings. I expect proper clothing, NO eating, respectful actions and conversation between students and with me.

Lastly, I am all too aware, with three teens in my personal life, that screen time is a problem. Online and computer-based learning will make that even more of a

challenge. My goal is to give students “outdoor” and off-line assignments to do when I can. But, I also ask that the adults in their lives push them away from the screen (including their phone) for at least a couple hours a day and to ensure that they eat and sleep properly, so that they can refresh their bodies and minds each day. As a rule, phones will not be allowed in my classroom.

I am very much looking forward to this year and to get to know you all!

Mr. Hinz  
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