

Fall 2025/Spring 2026- Physical Science & Earth/Environmental Science

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Atwood/Rivera's Class Schedule for 2025-2026

| Period | Fall 2025 | Spring 2026 |
|--------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | **Planning** | Earth/Env Science |
| 2 | Physical Science | **Planning** |
| 3 | Earth/Env Science | Physical Science |
| 4 | Earth/Env Science | Physical Science |

THS STUDENT HANDBOOK- Click  Student Handbook 2025-2026

Science Class Instruction Policies and Expectations

******Note- These policies are subject to change based on directives from the Instructor, THS, HCS, or NCDPI. If changes occur, students will be notified.******

Standards-

Physical Science-

<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/documents/cte/curriculum/science/physical-science-standards/open>

Earth/Environmental Science-

<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/documents/cte/curriculum/science/earth-and-environmental-standards/open>

Supplemental Online Course Materials-

Several online services will be utilized to supplement course material and assess student learning. Some of these include-

-Google Classroom and Productivity Suite

-Explore Learning/Gizmos

-EdPuzzle

-Quizizz

-SchoolNet

-GimKit

-Infinite Campus

Lab Safety-

For many of the lab activities, students will need to have a Lab Safety Contract signed by student and guardian and on file before participating. Link below.

 [**student-lab-safety-agreement.pdf**](#)

- In some lab activities, special apparel modifications might be required (no loose clothing, hair tied back, closed toed shoes, etc.). If such is the case, students will be notified the day prior. If students are not prepared, they will be required to stay at a distance from the lab station and observe.
- If students need protective eyewear for a lab, it will be provided.
- Students should not put in or remove any materials from lab drawers
- Students should not remove sink covers or turn on water or gas valves unless instructed to do so.
- Students should never eat or drink at lab stations.
- Failure to comply with lab safety rules (noted here and instructions given prior to a lab) can result in grade deductions, loss of lab privileges, or disciplinary action.

Food/Drink-

- Food and Drink is ONLY allowed at student desks, and NOT allowed at lab stations/benches for safety reasons.
- Students must clean up after themselves and food/drink consumed must not be a disruption.
- Students will not be allowed to leave class to go to the cafeteria or vending machines. Breakfast will be served up until 8am and breakfast carts will be available again between 1st and 2nd period.

Cellphones/Personal Electronics- Tuscola High School and the Haywood County Board of Education understand that cell phones and other wireless communication devices are important tools for staying in touch with parents and guardians (Policy #4318).

Students are allowed to have these devices on campus; however, **per North Carolina House Bill 959, all cell phones must be turned off and put away during classroom instruction.**

Cell phone use is only allowed during non-instructional times, such as before school, during lunch, and between classes.

Failure to follow this policy may result in disciplinary action.

Chromebooks-Chromebooks will be used extensively in class. Students should be using the chromebook for academic purposes only as directed by the instructor. Gaming, YouTube, social media, video streaming, etc. is not permitted.

Artificial Intelligence/Copying from the Internet

-Use of the internet, search engines, and *some* use of AI is good to help when learning content or generating ideas. However, these tools are meant to assist you, not do the work for you.

-Use of AI to complete assignments is not permitted. If you are suspected of using AI to complete an assignment, it will be returned to you to complete again in your own work along with a warning. Repeat offences can result in disciplinary action.

-Copying and pasting directly from internet resources is not permitted. If you are suspected of copying and pasting assignments from online sources, it will be returned to you to complete again in your own work along with a warning. Repeat offences can result in disciplinary action.

Attendance

See Slides 6-8 in Student Handbook linked below

Student Handbook 2025-2026

-Class attendance is important to academic success.

-Contact us ASAP (email, Classroom) if you are going to be absent from class or will not be able to submit assignments so that we can help to work something out.

-When absent, students should check Google Classroom and complete available assignments for that day as soon as able. Some laboratory activities will not be able to be completed outside of class. This will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

-If students exceed the number of allowable absences according to the student handbook and Haywood County Schools policy, it could result in grade reductions/failing grade for the course per the THS Attendance Committee

Tardies

See Slide 9 in Student Handbook linked below

Student Handbook 2025-2026

-Students should be in the classroom when the bell rings.

-Students tardy for class will report to the ISS room to retrieve a Tardy Pass. Late students will be marked absent until they return to class with a Tardy Pass. Tardies are cumulative for all classes. Excessive tardiness can result in administrative discipline.

Classroom Materials Needed

-Chromebook and Charger **Bring Every Day**

- Writing and coloring utensils (Pencils, Pens, Highlighters, colored pencils, etc)
- 3 ring binder with paper (to hold onto any paper assignments/materials and calculations)
- Headphones/Earbuds to use with Chromebooks
- Calculator (Optional- we have calculators in the classroom). For out of class assignments the calculator on cell phones should suffice so long as it has square root and exponent functions. It is recommended that you download a scientific calculator app on your phone for completing assignments at home (Desmos is a good option). We will use class calculators in class as these will be the calculators provided for testing.

In Class Expectations/Rules

- Be safe
- Be respectful
- Be ready to work

Failure to comply with above rules may result in recorded warnings, parent contacts, and administrative referrals at the discretion of the instructor.

Typical Discipline Procedures

- Minor infractions and warnings (disruptive behavior, disrespect, leaving class without permission, minor horseplay, misuse of technology, etc- at instructor's discretion) will result in Minor Incidents being recorded in Educators Handbook. Minor incident counts are cumulative throughout the semester.
- 3 Minor Incidents recorded will result in an attempted parent contact.
- 4+ Minor Incidents can/will result in office referrals at the discretion of the instructor. Discipline applied will be at the discretion of the administrative team.
- Major infractions can result in direct office referrals (fighting, endangering self or others, blatant disrespect, dangerous behavior, theft, etc.

Conduct Report Card Comments per Grading Period (6 Weeks)

| Result | Report Card Comment |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Fewer than 3 Minor Incidents/Infractions | <i>Conduct Satisfactory</i> |
| Parent Contact and/or 1 Office Referral | <i>Conduct Needs Improvement</i> |
| Multiple Parent Contacts and/or Office Referrals | <i>Conduct Unsatisfactory</i> |

Leaving the Classroom

- Students will need to notify the instructor prior to leaving the classroom for any necessary reasons.
- Students will need to sign out ***and*** back in via Smart Pass. SmartPass will indicate a student's place in the queue and when it is time for them to leave.
- In general, the THS expectation is no more than two students out at a time

Final Grade Calculation

T1 (1st grading period/6 weeks) - 25% (see "In Class Grades")
 T2 (2nd grading period/6 weeks)- 25% (see "In Class Grades")
 T3 (3rd grading period/6 weeks)- 25% (see "In Class Grades")
 Final Exam/NCFE- 25%

In Class Grades

Labs (Gizmos, Labs, Projects)- 30%
Classwork (Tutorials, EdPuzzles. Practice Assignments)- 30%
Exams (Usually 1-2 per grading period)- 10%
Quizzes (Weekly)- 30%

Although grades are assigned and communicated through Google Classroom, official scores are calculated in Infinite Campus. See "Viewing Grades" below.

In Class Exams and Quizzes-

All **quizzes** will be open note, open book, open web, but the general expectation is that students will complete the quiz on their own, without the help of a classmate, parent, family member, etc. Quizzes can be done multiple times, only the highest score reached will count toward the student average. Retakes of quizzes can be done outside of class time.

There will be approximately 3-4 **exams** throughout the semester. Typically 1 at the end of each grading term (6 weeks), and 1 practice NCFE at the end of the course. Exams will be assigned one week before the end of the grading period deadline via Quizizz/Wayground. Students will be able to work on the test in and out of school at their own pace during the assignment period and use their resources available. Students will be able to retake an exam/test one time. Students will receive the higher of the two grades. Open note/open web allowed. Students will be expected to complete the test on their own, using their own resources.

End of Semester Final Exams

Currently Scheduled for Late May/Early June

The final exam for this course is expected to be a SchoolNet exam, created by Haywood County Schools, modeled after the NCFEs, which will be given during the last 5 days of the semester. The final exam counts 25% of the student's overall semester grade.

Late Work

Keep up with assignments and make all efforts to get them in on time so that you are not overwhelmed with late/incomplete assignments all at once. Late assignments will not carry over from one grading period to the next. All late assignments for a grading period will be due at a date set by the instructor before scores are locked into Infinite Campus and Google Classroom.

Assignments (except exams- 1 reattempt only) can be re-attempted and re-submitted as many times as needed for up to full credit before the cutoff date at the end of the grading period for improved credit.

Cutoff dates will be set in the days before report cards, roughly every 6 weeks. Students will be notified of the cutoff date in advance and it will be posted and reminded often. Once the cutoff date has passed, those assignments and grades will be “locked in”. Students will know which assignments are locked in by the  icon placed in the assignment title on Google Classroom.

Even though students will be able to complete missing assignments and fix low grades up until the cutoff date, zeroes for missing assignments will be entered regularly in order to provide a clearer picture of where students' grade stands at that point in time. Once that assignment is submitted/resubmitted and regraded, the grade will be updated.

Remote Learning Days

There are several "Remote Learning Days" built into the calendar. These are days in which students will work on assignments at home. Instructions for these Remote Learning Days will be posted and provided in advance.

Inclement Weather/Snow Days

In event of inclement weather, there are several types of "severe weather/snow day" or alternate schedules that could be implemented and the expectation of students changes based on School Policy.

School Closed – Optional Workday – Schools will be closed for students. No Remote Assignments will be posted.

School Closed – Annual Leave Day – Schools will be closed for students. No Remote Assignments will be posted.

Closed (or No Day) – Schools will be closed for students and all staff. No Remote Assignments will be posted.

Remote Learning Optional Workdays (RLOWs) - Students will not report to school, but will be expected to complete at home assignments. Assignments and instructions, if not already provided, will be posted or reposted by 9 am that morning to Google Classroom.

Viewing Grades

Although some grades and scores will be entered and available through Google Classroom, the official grade will be entered and calculated through Infinite Campus. If you or a parent has any questions about a grade, or if I have made a mistake, please do not hesitate to reach out. Grading and score entry will happen throughout the week. Zeroes for missing assignments will be entered weekly, but can be fixed if submitted by the cutoff date/due for that grading period.

It is HIGHLY recommended that both students and parents/guardians have access to Infinite Campus and that students and their families go over their grades and assignments on a regular basis.

Assignment Submissions

Many assignments will be submitted under the Classwork tab on Google Classroom. If you prefer to handwrite your assignments, many of the assignments are available as a Google Doc, .doc, or PDF that you can print, write on, and attach photos or scans of your work. You may also digitally type on Google Docs or .docs (Recommended). Please contact us if you have any issues with submitting assignments.

NOTICE TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS:-

On Google Classroom, students will have the option to simply click “Mark as Done” on their assignments, even if they have not completed or submitted work. This will result in students' grades in Google Classroom **APPEARING** on their score sheet as if an assignment has been submitted, but in actuality it has not. When going over assignments together, please ensure that there is work completed and attached to the assignment. If students simply click “Mark as Done” with no work attached, it will be returned and re-marked as missing with the comment “blank”. If this continues to be an issue, grade penalties can be assessed and/or students could forfeit the right to submit that assignment.

Questions? Comments? Need Help?

If you need help, have concerns, or have questions please do not hesitate to reach out. we are here to help and want you to succeed!

FYI- the best way to reach Mr. Atwood or Ms. Rivera is through the email address at the top of this document or through Google Classroom.

Have a great semester!

Daniel Atwood
Julianne Rivera