

Welcome to Astronomy with Mr. Bryant!

matthew.bryant2@warren.kyschools.us

<http://www.mrbryant.net>

Thanks for taking Astronomy this year. This is *our* class, not mine alone. Below are the minimum expectations that will be important for us.

1) **Please take the class seriously (but not somberly!).** I expect a sincere effort on tests, quizzes, homework, lab reports, and other assignments, and I promise you a sincere effort at everything I do. But I intend that we'll have fun along the way!

2) **Make every effort to be here every day, and on time.** It matters to me that you are in class and on time as often as possible. The experience in a class is generated through the interaction of everyone present, and that experience is just not the same without you! You must be in the classroom by the time the tardy bell rings to be considered "on-time." Please help me by reminding me to take attendance and by sitting in the same place every day. Please attend to your restroom needs before or after class if at all possible; you may leave the room for truly necessary business by seeing me for a hall pass.

3) During whole class instruction or discussion, **respect for me and for other students requires that only one person talks at a time, and that all comments affirm other persons.**

4) **Help to care for the books, the room, and the equipment.** We have a great deal of new science equipment and everyone needs to be especially careful during labs. Avoid horseplay—I reserve the right to give someone a zero for the lab in extreme cases. Do not use my computer unless under my direct supervision.

5) **No food or drink should be consumed in class**—except water in a reusable container.

6) **Want a textbook—just ask!** We have textbooks available that are excellent, quite readable, and well illustrated. Reading the chapters, especially when you miss a day or two, is really helpful! We won't typically be using a textbook, so I'll only issue you one if you request it.

7) Take notes every day -- even if you never look at them again! Just the act of writing helps you organize and remember. **The rule: if it makes it to a white-board it should make it to your notes.**

8) **Have a calculator close by every day.** Long division and exponential notation are such pains without one and we'll be dealing with *astronomically* large numbers!

9) **Classroom Technology Policy:** Most days you should set your mobile devices to silent mode and we will stow our cellphones as we enter class in the designated area. On the occasions we do use mobile devices in class, you should only use your personal devices for the specified task. You may *not* use said devices for activities unrelated to your education. Device use must comply with the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) for Electronic Resources for the WCPS.

Notes about grades

The course will be divided into 6 units--each with a quiz, a unit project, and daily activities. Grades will be determined on the standard scale used by our school, based on the following:

The table below is subject to change but will give you an idea of what to expect.

Quarter 1	Point Value	Quarter 2	Point Value
U1: Quiz-Sun/Earth/Moon	~30	U4: Quiz-Tools of Astronomy	~30
U1: Calendar Project	~50	U4: Cosmic Detective Project	~50
U2: Quiz-Motions in the Sky	~30	U5: Quiz-Stars	~30
U2: Archaeologist Project	~50	U5: Ten Most Wanted List Project	~50
U3: Quiz-Planets	~30	U6: Quiz-Universe	~30
U3: Solar System Design Project	~50	U6: Determining the Size and Age of the Universe Project	~50
U1-3: Classwork	~300	U4-6: Classwork	~300
Total Quarter 1 Points	~540	Total Quarter 2 Points	~540

You should not expect tests/assignments to be scaled (aka curved). If a large number of students do poorly on an assignment, one of three things is wrong: 1) The students were not fully prepared, 2) The assignment was unfair, or 3) the material was not taught in a manner sufficient for student understanding. It is my intention to teach and create assignments to the best of my ability, and it should be your intention to be in class, study for quizzes, and complete assignments on time. If we all apply *genuine* effort—everything will be just fine (I promise).

Homework and classwork assignments are designed to be worthwhile and not just something to keep you busy! Questions are selected to cover a range of difficulty levels intended to encourage you to think through what we do in class. We will typically complete and/or review work just prior to test days. Remember to show all your work when answering questions that require some mathematical operations.

I often encourage group work, however I want you to please make a special note: Your paper/classwork should never leave your possession even if you are permitted to assist a classmate. Helping a classmate is *not* giving them your work, and I consider such a practice, "cheating" and a violation of your personal honor. You should aim to *coach* a classmate through a problem—not simply give them your solution. Cheating on a test or quiz will result in a failing grade on that assessment.

I'll be helping you learn astronomy, but all teachers also want to help you learn responsibility. It's important that you have your assignments -- even with a few questions incomplete -- on the day it is due. Work submitted after the due date and prior to the unit assessment (quiz) can earn you up to half credit. Late work submitted after the unit assessment will be recorded as a zero. Students with missing work due to an excused absences should set up a new due date with me.

You will have an opportunity to earn two bonus points each Monday. One point can be earned by bringing in a parent/guardian *signed* copy of your current Infinite Campus score report for Astronomy and the other point can be earned by bringing a *handwritten* copy of the agenda for the week ahead (available on the class website at www.mrbryant.net). Other than these two points each Monday, you should *not* expect additional extra/bonus credit opportunities.

I am usually available before and after school to assist with questions, labs, practice, and other work. If you have an assignment partially or fully completed before it is due and you ask me to check it for you prior to submitting it, I am more than happy to do so!

Required Classroom Materials:

1" or 1.5" 3-Ring Binder
Loose-Leaf Paper
\$10 Lab Fee (see separate letter)

Requested Classroom Materials

Dry Erase Markers
Kleenex (Tissues)
Clorox Wipes

The BIG picture:

*I want you to **do well** in this course,
to **feel comfortable** while you are here,
to approach the class **without fear**,
and to leave it **without regret**.*

Thanks go to Dr. Jon Secaur, Mr. Bryant's mentor teacher, on whose work some of the above is based!

Dear Caregiver,

I'm so delighted to have your student for astronomy this semester. Science and teaching have been my passions since I began teaching 18 years ago and I'm always excited to meet new students and engage them in science. Thanks for reading the Welcome to Astronomy with Mr. Bryant document and all the other paperwork the science department and school sends home. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns – email is the best way to start: matthew.bryant2@warren.kyschools.us

If you'd like to share something with me about your student's goals or your hopes for them this school year, feel free to use the space below:

Sincerely,

Matt Bryant
Physics & Astronomy Teacher
South Warren High School

I have read and understand the "Welcome to Astronomy with Mr. Bryant" document.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Date

Signature of Student: _____

Date

Student Name: _____

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Please Print

Score

Block _____