

Reynolds High School

Geology of the PNW (2025-2026)



Instructor Name: Kelsey Hanson

Email Address: khanson@rsd7.net

Room: 207

Phone Extension: 1014

Required Textbooks/Materials:

- Geology specific binder with paper in order to keep all materials organized in one place
- Writing utensils
- School Chromebook and charger

Course Description: This 1 semester course provides an in-depth exploration of the geology of the Pacific Northwest region. Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the geological processes, landforms, and natural resources that shape the unique landscape of the Pacific Northwest. Topics covered will include tectonic activity, volcanic processes, glacial formations, geological hazards, and the formation of local mineral deposits. The course will involve a combination of lectures, laboratory work, and independent research projects.

Course Topics Outline:

Module	Topic
1	Introduction to Pacific NW Geology
2	Volcanism and Volcanic Landforms
3	Glaciation and Ice Age Floods
4	Tectonic Activity and Earthquakes
5	Geologic Hazards in the PNW
6	Minerals Resource of the PNW
7	Field Techniques
8	Independent Research Project

****Subject to change based on appropriate class pacing and departmental decisions****

Letter Grade Description & Percentage Breakdown:

As said above, we do not collect “points” in our class. Every piece of work or assessment is scored on a 0-4 scale in order to communicate the student’s level of understanding. However, grades are then weighted based on the following categories:

Formative Classwork & Weekly Guide Sheets

Formative classwork is all the work that we do each week in class. This includes activities, discussions, notes, formative quiz checks, mini labs, mini projects, etc. These **are worth 15% of your grade.** Each

week students will have a weekly guide that they must fill out. At the beginning of the week we will set goals, write learning objectives, and at the end of the week we will reflect on different aspects. Students must complete the whole guide, thoroughly and thoughtfully. This is a separate score from the averaged classwork that week. These guides **are worth 15% of your grade** and will also be put in the gradebook at the end of each week.

Unless a student needs to finish work they did not complete in class, there will be NO homework assigned to students. At home practice opportunities are optional. Homework has not been shown to improve student achievement throughout research. Additionally, I respect that they may need to work, spend time with family, play sports, or be involved in extracurriculars outside of school. That being said, I expect students to give 100% in class during the time I see them.

Mastery Assessments

Mastery assessments include things like end of unit exams, large projects, mastery based labs, and reports. Mastery assessments **are worth 70% of your grade**. Students will be made aware well in advance of what mastery assessments are coming up and what they are.

Formative work is practice! I am not looking to penalize students based on how well they know something while they are learning it, or how many classwork assignments they don't turn in. I am looking to objectively communicate how well students understand the learning objectives of a unit after we have spent the unit learning and practicing and getting feedback. This method prioritizes positive progress and rewards students at their *best*.

Points Earned	Letter Grade	Description
4	A	The student has demonstrated advanced mastery, beyond proficiency , of course objectives aligned with NGSS
3	B	The student has demonstrated proficiency of course objectives aligned with NGSS
2	C	The student is approaching proficiency of course objectives aligned with NGSS
1	D	The student has provided little evidence of proficiency of course objectives aligned with NGSS
0	F	The student has not yet provided evidence of proficiency of course objectives aligned with NGSS

Late Work/Retake Policy:

- Outside of extenuating circumstances, students **are permitted to submit weekly guides/classwork scores up to one week after it is due (the next Friday)**. However, I highly encourage students to turn in work on time, in order to receive timely feedback from me and to avoid a build-up of work for themselves. Successful students stay organized and meet deadlines in order to stay on track.
- Students may **always re-do formative work to show that they have made more progress** towards a learning objective **up to one week after it is due (the next Friday)**. Students will retain the highest grade out of each attempt.
- **Late mastery assessments will be handled on a case by case basis. A meeting with Mrs. Hanson is required. Additionally, opportunities to retake/redo/make greater progress on**

summative work will be handled on a case to case basis and require meeting with Mrs. Hanson.

- **Unless there has been an arrangement made with Mrs. Hanson students are responsible for making up work they missed while absent no later than one week after returning from an absence. Students can look at schoology for what they missed, check in with peers, look at the student center in our classroom, and check in with Mrs. Hanson.**
- **I always encourage students to reach out to me first and advocate for themselves if they have any questions or concerns.** That being said, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. If your student requires additional support, it is best to reach out as early as possible to set up a plan of action. This includes any absences that require make-up work.

Mrs. Hanson's expectations in addition to Reynold's POWER:

1. Respect yourself, your learning, others, materials
2. Practice a GROWTH mindset daily
3. Make learning your priority (grades are meaningless if you don't walk away with greater importance/knowledge/connections)
4. Give your best effort and advocate for yourself (my "door" is always open)
5. Be present each day, coming prepared and removing distractions

Reynolds General Expectations: (i.e. POWER)

- 1.**PREPARED and PUNCTUAL:** Come to class every day, on time and ready to learn!
- 2.**ORGANIZED:** Turn in assignments and homework on time. Get help from me before an assignment is due. Use your planner.
- 3.**WRITE:** Listen and speak to others but do your own best work. Copied work will not receive credit.
- 4.**ENGAGED:** Much of the learning takes place in class while collaborating with peers, so PARTICIPATE 100%.
- 5.**RESPECT:** Show respect for yourself and your learning, others, and materials.

Behavior Policies:

- Zero tolerance for bullying/hate speech. Automatic removal from class until a restorative meeting has happened to prioritize the safety of all students.
- Zero tolerance for lab misconduct. Students not following lab rules will automatically be removed from the lab and receive a 0.
- Intentional cheating/plagiarism will receive a 0 and retakes will not be permitted.
- Repeated behavior challenges will require a restorative meeting/letter before continuing to participate in class. Further behavior challenges will be referred to school administration.
- Absolutely no headphones or cellphones in class
- If a student is more than 15 minutes late without a pass they will be marked absent automatically.

Date

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature