



## PASTOR DAVID ORTEGA

### BIO

Our family moved to Gilroy in 2016 and we have enjoyed every minute of it! We have had the pleasure of serving the Vine Community for two years. I continue to be *extremely impressed* with the camaraderie of the students, the care of the staff, and the general level of individual talents I have observed in the student body.

I currently serve as an associate pastor at *The Foothills Church*, where my

responsibilities range from leading worship, preaching, audio/visual production, and a whole lot of “other”! I received my undergraduate degree in Biblical Studies at Life Pacific University in San Dimas, California, and my Master’s Degree in Divinity at Azusa Pacific University (Azusa, CA). I previously taught foundational and practical theology at the undergraduate level for three years. Additionally, my wife and I served for years with youth ministry at our church in Southern California where we first met. We were also Senior Pastors for six years in Seymour, Connecticut. We have three children, ages 19, 16, and 14. My wife teaches High School Psychology at Monte Vista Christian School. I am passionate about serving God’s people and I am incredibly honored to partner with you this year to help our kids increase their knowledge level!

## SHORT CLASS SUMMARY

### EARTH SCIENCE

I look forward to working through the wonders of God’s creation – our Earth and beyond! I believe that God created us with inquiring minds. Studying our incredible planet should leave us in awe and wonder at the majesty of our Creator. My goal in teaching is to both inform *and* inspire, and I will work very hard to do both this year. Thank you for the opportunity to serve them and you. We will be studying the Lithosphere, Hydrosphere, Atmosphere, and the Weather patterns of our planet. Then we will talk about our Solar System, the Milky Way Galaxy, and what little we know about the Universe.

## DETAILED CLASS SUMMARY

### EARTH SCIENCE

#### Required Textbook:

[\*Christian Kids Explore Earth & Space\*](#) by Stephanie L. Redmond

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***Class expectations will be sent home for parent signature on the first day of class.***

### **Class Summary:**

Class will consist of lecture, video, experiments, and in-class assignments. Group assignments and up-front class demonstrations will often take place during our class time. I thoroughly enjoy class discussion and group discovery. For example, when we talk about the concept of noise under the ocean, students will listen to a variety of sounds and try to guess what it is. At one point, we create a cloud in class using a large water container, some rubbing alcohol, and pressure.

We will go far beyond the textbook. We will talk about the Earth's uniqueness and the many ecosystems contained on our beautiful planet. When we learn about weather; we will touch on the difference between weather and climate. When we talk about wind, we will actually learn to sketch out the global wind patterns.

Basically, we will learn a lot **and** have fun.

### **Grading:**

Students will demonstrate their learning in the following ways:

1. Students will complete several different types of assignments as we go through the year:
  - a. **Reading sheets** (*students will be assigned reading from the textbook or a secondary material and then have questions to answer*)
  - b. **Video review sheets** (*similar to reading sheets, only they will answer questions from a video*)
  - c. **Additional assignments** (*These can range from creative writing to at-home experiments to drawing a picture*)
2. Tests and Projects
  - a. **Tests:** There are 6 Units, and we will have one test per unit
  - b. **Finals:** At the end of each semester we will have a comprehensive test to review all the information we have learned
  - c. *Students will be fully prepared for tests*
2. **Project**
  - a. All students will complete **one project per semester**.
    - i. In the **first semester**, they will create a project about a particular **historical event** or location related to what we have studied (*Earthquake, Volcano, or information about a Cave*).
    - ii. In the **second semester**, they will create a project about **weather events** or extra-terrestrial bodies (*Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Earth's Moon, a planet in our Solar System*)
    - iii. Students will **research and present** expanded information about their chosen subject to the class. This presentation should take 5 minutes. Further information on the projects will be provided during the year.

### **Possible Field Trip:**

1. A new exhibit is opening recently called The NASA Experience. This attraction is a partnership between the NASA Ames Research Center and The Chabot Space & Science Center. It's a little far away (in Oakland), but if we can swing it I believe it will be a very rewarding experience for the students. Please note that as long as they are open, the best day for me to plan this trip would be a Monday.

**Class Materials:**

- Student textbook
- Ticonderoga #2 pencils - *If you prefer to stick with solely American manufacture, you could try companies like [General Pencil](#) or [Musgrave Pencil](#)*
- College Rule Paper - *this needs to be loose leaf and stored in a 1" binder*
- Additional materials for in-class experiments to be announced as needed

**Note:** I expect all assignments to be submitted in a **neat, complete,** and **timely** manner.