August 2014

Dear Parent,

 I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your student to my Science class. We will be together for the entire 8th grade year and we will be studying many important foundational concepts of Physical Science .We will be covering the California standards while at the same time answering many questions your student may have about the physical world we live in.

 I am also a believer in being a team player so I follow all the school rules. As such, I don’t allow cell phones to be out, used, or heard in my class. If they are, they will be confiscated and turned into the office. Also, backpacks are not allowed in the classroom. So, if your student leaves my classroom for any locker issue, they will be marked tardy. Please note that the result of three tardies will be a 30 minute detention that can be served at lunch or after school on Wednesday or Friday. Also, as the LAWs become increasingly strict, I need you to remind your student that Bullying will not be tolerated at John Muir Middle School. I only mention these rules because they are school policies and I want you to know that I agree with them and enforce them. I want my class to be a safe and non-disruptive learning environment so that your student will have the greatest possible success. It is my goal to partner with you to make sure that your student is ready to face the challenges that await them when they leave John Muir and go to the High School.

 Students are expected to follow the Student Code of Conduct. If they do, they will find their John Muir experience rewarding and even fun. Our Code of Conduct states: 1) Be Respectful, 2) Be Productive, 3) Be Safe, 4) Be Responsible, and 5) Be Prepared. Another good way to look at it is to avoid any behavior that might stop anyone (including yourself) from learning.

 In addition to the required school supplies, I require that my students have **TWO** spiral notebooks. One of these will be for class notes and the other will be devoted to homework. Please help me remind your students that these are NOT paper sources. Your student should have a constant supply of binder paper at all times. This will ensure that the students’ notes are together and easily accessible.

 If, at any time, you want to see how your student is doing in my class, I will have their grades posted on the ABI program through the School District. To get access to this on-line site, you will need a password. If you haven’t already, you will need to fill out a request form. Be sure your student’s full name is on it and return it to the school. You will get a family password that will connect you with your students’ information. If you need to contact me, call 618-4400 and leave me a message. I will get back to you as soon as I can. If you e-mail me, it may take a little longer.

 I’m sorry for all this beginning of the year formality. I appreciate the privilege of teaching your teen this year. If its like any other years in my class, they are bound to have fun, lots of laughs, and they will learn some really cool stuff.

Sincerely,

Chuck Vonderheid