

WONDER & DISCOVER

IN OUR 7th-GRADE SCIENCE LAB



September 3, 2013

Dear Students:

Welcome to 7th-grade at Surline Middle School. This letter is designed to give you basic information about your upcoming year in our lab. Students will be completing a variety of inquiry-based activities and cooperative teamwork to discover what matter is, how to measure it, and what kind of changes it goes through (both physically and chemically). We will also experiment with different kinds of waves, including water waves and cycles that will help us understand our Earth's atmosphere and weather patterns. The following is a brief outline of my classroom rules and procedures along with a list of suggested supplies that will help you stay organized while learning our state-mandated curriculum.

Your first assignment is to reread this letter with your parents and sign/initial in all **FIVE** designated boxes. If you or your parents have any questions, please jot them down at the end of this letter and bring them to class. I'm working on a new website (<http://cathcartscience.weebly.com/>) that outlines our year and includes information that we discuss in class. Parents are also invited to e-mail me (cathcarb@wbrc.k12.mi.us) or leave a phone message at (343-2140 x-5115) at any time. I'll respond to all inquiries during times when students are not present in my room. For additional school-wide policies, it is **your** responsibility to learn school rules and procedures.

Basic Science Lab SAFETY Rules

(My goal is to ensure a safe learning environment. Because of the seriousness of each of these safety rules, a 45-minute detention will automatically be issued if these are not followed.)

- Going behind the teacher's station.
- Playing with the emergency wash area.
- Entering the storage room without the teacher's permission.
- Rocking on / falling off of the stools.

WE UNDERSTAND THESE SAFETY RULES.

(student signature)

(parent/guardian signature)

General 7th-Grade Classroom Rules & Procedures

(All rules, consequences, and rewards are posted in the classroom.)

1. Be Ready for Class Before the Bell Rings
2. Respect Each Other and School Materials
3. Allow the Teacher to Teach and the Students to Learn
4. Stay on Assigned Task and Always Do Your Personal Best
5. Follow Directions and Individual Room Rules

WE UNDERSTAND THESE CLASSROOM RULES.

(student signature or initials)

(parent/guardian signature or initials)

Suggested Supplies Needed by Monday, September 10th

- ✓ THREE 100-count packages of 3 x 5 index cards for vocabulary flash cards and activities.
- ✓ One index card holder (e.g. zippered pencil holder designed for binder [*preferred*], plastic box, etc.)
- ✓ A supply of #2 pencils with erasers (Extras can be kept in your locker until needed.) These will be useful for ALL classes. **(Mechanical pencils and pens are not allowed for use in the science lab.)**
- ✓ A zippered 3-ring binder to keep multiple pocket folders, pencils, planner, and index card holder. Again, this will be useful for ALL classes.
- ✓ ONE box of facial tissues to be stored in the lab and shared by all throughout the year.

WE UNDERSTAND THESE MATERIALS WILL BE HELPFUL WITH ORGANIZATION.

(student signature or initials)

(parent/guardian signature or initials)

Please send a note if you are unable to purchase the cards, holder, or pencils/erasers. (First 3 items)

Grades

❖ General Work (In-School and/or Homework)	40%
❖ Tests and quizzes	50%
❖ Portfolio with Written Responses	10%

Grades will be posted anonymously in the classroom at least halfway through each marking period for students to check their own progress. They can also be viewed on the Internet via “Parent Connect” using a password issued by the office. Paper progress reports will only be sent home if a student has below a C-, in which case it must be returned the following day with a parent signature.

Late work will receive credit for effort, but will not be graded.

A zero will be given if an assignment is not completed at the beginning of class on its due date. Because EVERYTHING we do in science this year builds on the previous lessons / information, students are encouraged to turn in completed late work *as soon as possible*. Although a zero will appear until the end of the marking period, students will be given partial credit when grades are calculated for the report card.

WE UNDERSTAND THIS GRADING POLICY.

(student signature or initials)

(parent/guardian signature or initials)

In order to keep the lines of communication open between school and home, I send a daily e-mail listing the planned agenda for the day, homework assignments, and dates for upcoming quizzes and tests. If you would like to become part of that group mailing, please complete the form below.

THANK YOU FOR WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE THIS A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL YEAR!

Mrs. Cathcart

RETURN THIS WELCOME LETTER WITH THE NESSECARY SIGNATURES OR INITIALS (5 PLACES) BY MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH.

(Rewards will be given to those who bring this letter back sooner.)

<u>X</u> _____ <i>(Printed Student Name)</i> <u>Hour</u> _____	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Check here if you do NOT wish to be included in my daily e-mails.</div>
<u>X</u> _____ <i>(Printed Parent Name)</i>	
<u>Parent's e-mail address</u> _____	

.....
Parent or Student Questions or Concerns:

Please check this box if you would like this letter returned so you may keep it for future reference.