

August 18, 2011

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I would like to welcome you and your son or daughter to this year's science course! I believe that science is an interesting and exciting topic. By getting involved in your child's instruction, you cannot only help your son or daughter to succeed, but you may also enjoy learning new material yourself! And why not? The more we know about the world around us, the more fascinating it becomes.

This year your son or daughter will be using a textbook called Holt Life Science. The textbook has a rich bank of science content and plenty of examples to help make that content relevant to daily life. In addition, the book clearly outlines lesson objectives and vocabulary. By mastering these concepts and terms, your son or daughter will gain a solid base in science and will be well prepared for high school science courses. Your child will also have many opportunities to reinforce, extend, and apply what he or she learns with fun and meaningful investigations and activities. And you can rest assured that this program meets our state and national standards for science!

My goal is to create a classroom environment that will help your son or daughter

- build a solid science vocabulary
- gain a strong understanding of key scientific principles and topics
- learn how to use mathematics to tackle scientific problems
- find out about the latest technologies and use many of them to learn more about science and our world
- see how science is related to all other disciplines
- effectively prepare for standardized assessments
- see science as worthwhile and meaningful
- develop thinking skills and the ability to challenge assumptions, think creatively, and solve real-life problems
- have fun!!

I would appreciate your help in furthering these goals. Simply supporting your child as he or she explores science this year will go a long way!

**Science Grading Scale**

A= 93-100	A-= 90-92.9	
B+= 87-89.9	B= 83-86.9	B- = 80-82.9
C+= 77-79.9	C= 73-76.9	C- = 70-72.9
D+= 67-69.9	D= 63-66.9	D- = 60-62.9
F= 0-59.9		

## **Science Grading Policy**

I will be monitoring your child's progress with the following grading policy.

- Assessments - 80%
- Classwork and Homework - 20%

## **Homework**

This may be a reading assignment, a worksheet, review questions, take-home activities, unfinished class work or simply a few vocabulary terms that the student completes themselves. I encourage you to review homework on a regular basis so that you know how well your son or daughter is doing.

## **Classwork**

Most days students will be assigned work to be completed in class by said student. Those assignments not completed may be turned in the following class.

## **Assessments**

Quizzes and projects are used to ensure that students are regularly completing and understanding their course work.

I usually administer one quiz every couple of weeks. If your son or daughter earns a grade of *C* or lower, please encourage your child to visit with me about ways to improve his or her scores.

While I do not offer any extra credit I do allow for students who have done poorly on a quiz the opportunity to retake said quiz. Every Tuesday of the current trimester students may come in immediately after school and retake any quiz that they feel they can improve upon.

Failure to turn in an assignment or cheating will result in a zero in the Gradebook.

## **Absences**

If your child has an excused absence, please encourage him or her to visit with me immediately upon returning to the classroom (or in advance if possible). Please know that it is my priority to ensure that each student has adequate assistance and ample opportunity to succeed in this class.

## **Materials**

To be successful in Science, all students must come to class every day fully prepared with the proper materials.

These include:

- a writing implement (pen or pencil)
- paper for writing upon
- folder for materials

A classroom set of text books will be provided so students do not need to bring their books from home to school.

**Contact**

If you have any questions about the class or your child's progress, please feel free to contact me.

- e-mail - [phodder@romoland.k12.ca.us](mailto:phodder@romoland.k12.ca.us)
- phone - 951-723-8931 ext. 302
- web - [www.hodderscience.com](http://www.hodderscience.com)
- daily blog updates - [www.hodderscience.com/blog2012](http://www.hodderscience.com/blog2012)
- twitter - @hodderscience
- Boulder Ridge Middle School - Room 2

Sincerely,

Phillip Hodder

Your assignment will be to have you and your parent or guardian read and sign this document. Then cut off the bottom section and return it to me for credit.

\_\_\_\_\_ (cut here) \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand Mr. Hodder's Policies and Procedures

\_\_\_\_\_ Student Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_ Period Number

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature