Ms. Beth McDaniel    Mrs. Arlene Cunningham

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(423)847-4810 ex 41542                   423)847-4810 ex 41541

Dear Parents,

Welcome to 7th grade! We are Ms. McDaniel and Mrs. Cunningham and are excited to be your child’s science teachers this year.  Science is where book knowledge meets practical application through reading, writing, arithmetic, and hands-on inquiry activities.  It is our goal to provide support in the form of high impact, research based best practices teaching strategies that will empower and engage your student to succeed and reach their highest potential.

This year we are asking for $10 for the year science fee that allow us to replace perishable and nonperishable laboratory materials.  We greatly appreciate your donations.

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

We expect every child to come to class prepared to learn by having pencils, paper, and academic materials that are required for learning.  Students are expected to be in their assigned seats at the time class begins and begin classroom procedures such as starting their warm-ups.  Students who walk in after the classroom door is closed will be considered tardy.  Students are expected to treat classmates and teachers with respect and respect learning time by not interrupting class with poor behavior.  We ask that all students hold their questions until after roll is taken.  Students are expected to work in a variety of group settings such as pairs, small groups, and whole group with a multitude of different students.  Students are not allowed to have food or drinks in class other than water without prior approval by the teacher.

**CLASSROOM DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES**

1stt time – Warning

2nd time – sign discipline sheet in agenda

3rd time – phone call to parents/guardian and detention

4th time – office referral

**COMMUNICATION**

We believe that communication between teachers, parents, and students is paramount for the success of the learning experience.  Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions that we can answer at the email address or phone number above. We are not available during school hours except during our planning from 10:45 to 12:10. The best and fastest way to reach us is through the email addresses provided above.

Grades are always available **on-line in PowerSchool**, and teachers will use a variety of sources to communicate with you. (Remind.com, Hixson Middle School Website, and agendas)

**REMIND.COM**

Both of us will be using Remind.com. This is a website where you can sign up to receive text messages from us in regards to classroom needs and requirements (test, quizzes, when things are due etc.). To sign-up, you are asked to text the number (81010) in the phone number line, then type in this code only (Cunningham – **@7110adc**) or (McDaniel - **@ed72d2**). Note the “@” sign must be in front of the code.

**ATTENDANCE AND MAKE-UP WORK**

Active participation in the teaching and learning process and the intellectual exchange that occurs in the classroom make attendance an essential component of a quality educational experience. Regular attendance and engagement are required in order to demonstrate mastery of material and to receive credit for work completed. Students who have an excused absence will be allowed 5 days to complete missing assignments for full credit.  Students with unexcused absence will have 5 days to make up the missing assignments.  It is the student’s responsibility to get make up work after class or through email.  Make up work will be placed in a designated area of the classroom.  Make-up work will not be discussed during instructional time. Students may make up or retake any quiz or test during related arts; however, a 10% grade reduction will be taken after 5 days if the test is not completed.  It is the student’s responsibility to set up a time to take/retake the test.

**PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING** have no place in education, and anyone caught in the act will be penalized by receiving a zero and a phone call home.

**GRADING SCALE**

We have two grading categories this year: Instructional task (daily work, class work, participation, homework, and quizzes) and Assessment Task (test, labs, writing, etc.).  Each of these will be worth 50 percent of the quarterly grade

**Instructional                                                                         Assessment**

 Quizzes and Daily Work = 40%                                          Test:  25 %

 Homework = 10 %                                                                Lab:  25 %

**CALENDAR DATES – Dates are tentative and are subject to change.**

Aug.  14 – Classifying Minerals             Aug. 28 – Rock Cycle

Sept. 6   – Layers of the Earth                                           Sept 12 – Tectonics and Continental Drift

Sept 19 – Major Geological Occurrences                            Sept 27 – Natural Resources

Oct. 2 – Final Exam Preparations              Oct. 4 – Final Exam (Subject to Change)

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Please cut off, sign and return to your science teacher acknowledge understanding of our requirements in the classroom.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_       Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_       Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_