

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome to an exciting year at Cesar Chavez Middle School, I will be your child's science teacher. We will have many opportunities for students to engage in exciting, meaningful activities. To help meet our goal of providing fun, stimulating lab activities, several things are important to ensure success and safety for all students. You can help me by reviewing the following information carefully with your child.

## **I. Cesar Chavez Goals in Science: Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful**

**Be Safe-** Always remember to follow directions given the first time asked.

**Be Respectful**— Treat others as you wish them to treat you. Students will respect the feelings and belongings of everyone, including all students, school staff members, and equipment. Follow directions the first time asked.

**Be Responsible by:**

### **1. Being On Time— in your seat & ready to work**

**A. Tardy:** Consequences for tardiness will be as follows:

1st tardy =                      2nd tardy =                      3rd tardy =                      4th tardy: parent  
verbal warning,              verbal warning,              detention                      contact, detention

**B. Emergency Hall Passes:** You will receive two emergency hall passes each quarter.

These may be used to go to your locker, the restroom, or to clear a tardy. If you do not use your passes for the quarter, you may turn them in for 20 bonus points each.

**2. Being Prepared— notebook, pencil, planner:** Come to class with your science notebook, pen or pencil, planner and binder everyday. **DO NOT** throw anything away! Notebooks, binders and homework planners will be checked periodically.

**3. Being Productive**— Classwork and homework will be assigned daily. Please check student planners for assignments. Work needs to be submitted on time, complete, and neat. Late work is not acceptable. Anyone who misses a class will need to get make-up assignments; this is the student's responsibility! Ask or call a classmate, see me after class, call my voice mail or check the assignment web page at:

Web: <http://www.quia.com/profiles/caguirre>

PHONE: (510) 487-1700, extension 60056

**MISSING ASSIGNMENTS ARE CONSIDERED A "ZERO."** Missing assignments will quickly lead to failing grades. If you miss a test or quiz, you must take it the day you return.

**4. Being Honest**— Always do your own work, and take responsibility for your own actions. Students are encouraged to help each other on many assignments, but it is never acceptable for students to copy other's work, or to allow their work to be copied.

## **II. Steps to Improve Inappropriate Behavior**

1. If you are tardy, unprepared, uncooperative, or disrupt learning you will receive consequences which may include: a verbal warning to immediately change the inappropriate behavior, a parent contact, reflective essay, and/or counselor referral to help you change the inappropriate behavior.

2. If you are tardy, unprepared, uncooperative, or disrupt learning **repeatedly** you will be subject to a referral to the assistant principal or principal.

## **III. Grades**

- According to District policy, 60% of your grade is based on assessments and 40% is based on class work and homework, (which includes 10% participation in class)
- You will receive progress reports regularly which must be signed by a parent and kept in your science binder. Grades are posted weekly in the classroom. You may check your grade before or after class.

#### IV. Materials Needed For Class

- **Textbook.** Cover your textbook. You are responsible for the replacement or damage costs of your textbook.
- **Science Notebook. Spiral Bound / Single Subject (70 pages) / College Ruled.** It must be in the class every day.
- **A Three ring binder,** with a divider for Science.
- Your Assignment **Planner** for writing Daily Assignments.
- **Lined binder paper,** pencil and blue or black ink pen.
- A calculator, colored pencils, small personal pencil sharpener, highlighter, and ruler (all of these are highly suggested, but not mandatory).

#### V. Contacting your teacher

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by any of these methods:

- Send me an e-mail message at: **caguirre@nhusd.k12.ca.us,**
- Call the school and leave a message at (510) 487-1700 with the school receptionist
- Leave a voice mail message at **(510) 487-1700, extension 60056**
- If you wish to check your weekly assignments, please call my voice mail number. The greeting will include a list of the week's assignments. Also, you can check my class web page:

**<http://www.quia.com/profiles/caguirre>**

I look forward to meeting you at Back to School Night on September 22nd. **Please mark your calendars!**

#### VI. Curriculum

In the Eighth grade science classes we focus on the Physical Sciences, emphasizing the concepts in the California State Content Standards. This will include units of study on:

- Chemistry of Living Systems
- The Periodic Table
- Density and Buoyancy
- Reactions
- Earth in the Solar System
- Structure of Matter
- Forces and Motion
- Investigation and Experimentation

**To see the California State Content Standards we cover, go to the CDE website:**

**<http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/scgrade8.asp>**

#### VII. Can You Help?

Many of the activities that are planned for this year require some simple materials that you might have at home. Also, some of our activities require special materials we must purchase. We would greatly appreciate your contributions.

<b>Scotch tape</b>	Plastic/paper cups	Glue sticks
Colored pencils	Lg/sm Ziploc bags	Vinegar
Kleenex/tissue	Dish soap	Baking soda
Flat toothpicks	Balloons	Corn starch

\$ 5- 10.00 so we can do the shopping J

We will have several fundraisers throughout the year to help us raise money to purchase special supplies. Please look for more information and fundraising letters to follow in a few weeks.

Sincerely,  
*Carolyn M. Aguirre*

**Parents: Please complete and return to Mrs. Aguirre tomorrow**

I certify that I have read and understood all of the information in this packet, and am aware of what is expected.

Please have your student keep page 1 in their binder's science section. If you would like a copy for your records, I can e-mail you one, you can download a copy from my webpage, or you can pick one up at Back to School Night, Tuesday September 22nd.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print) Last Name First Name Period

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

Parent/ Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print)

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

Parent Contact Information:

◇ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ ◇ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

◇ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ ◇ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please put a check beside the best way to contact you! Feel free to use the space on the back if you have any comments or questions.

**VII. Can You Help? Yes, we can help by donating.....**

- |                 |                      |             |
|-----------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Scotch tape     | Markers for coloring | Glue sticks |
| Colored pencils | Lg/sm Ziploc bags    | Vinegar     |
| Kleenex/tissue  | Dish soap            | Baking soda |
| Flat toothpicks | Balloons             | Corn starch |
- \$ 5- 10.00 so we can do the shopping

**PARENTS: Cut this part off and keep at home:**

**Mrs. Aguirre's science class web site:**  
<http://www.quia.com/profiles/caguirre>

I look forward to meeting you at Back to School Night on Tuesday, September 22nd!!

Parents: please use Mrs. Aguirre's website to find out about assignments and quizzes in your child's science class. You can also use it to email Mrs. Aguirre.

Use the "Notebook layout" link to find out what should be in the science notebook. Use the "Assignments" link to find out about current work or homework in science class. Grades are posted regularly on the website.

**Email (caguirre@nhusd.k12.ca.us) or call Mrs. Aguirre** if your student is getting low grades in science class or does not seem to understand what is going on in science class. Do not wait until it is too late to improve his or her grade.

Any Questions?

Please see me any day after class,  
send me e-mail : caguirre@nhusd.k12.ca.us  
or call me at (510) 487-1700 extension 60056.

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## COMMON REASONS FOR LOW GRADES

1. Low grades on quizzes: QUIZZES COUNT 60% OF GRADE. PAY ATTENTION IN CLASS.  
(THIS IS THE BIGGEST REASON FOR LOW QUIZ GRADES) STUDY A LITTLE BIT EACH NIGHT. (Review book or science notebook) Get help from teacher at lunch, study for quizzes. Let the teacher know if you are having problems reading or understanding quiz questions!
2. Missing assignments: Make sure you complete work ON TIME, keep organized, make up work missed from absence (use Mrs. Aguirre's website).
3. Not making up work from absences: Check Mrs. Aguirre's Web site:  
**<http://www.quia.com/profiles/caguirre>** and/or see the teacher.

Science textbooks will be sent home and should be covered and brought to class each day. You will be charged if lost or damaged. Book cost is \$58.58.
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