On behalf of Blue-6 Science, I would like to take a moment to welcome you and your family to ours, the Blue-6 family. There is some basic information we would like to convey to our students, parents and guardians. We have broken it down into basic components**: expectations, grading, curriculum and content, and communication**. Please save this paper for reference.

NAME:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Class Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Daily **expectations** for all students include, but are not limited to:

* Be **Responsible** (You are accountable for your actions or inactions. In the event of an absence from class, each student will be accountable for missed work and/or assignments. Please speak with your teachers to make arrangements to complete the work within a reasonable time of the missed assignment. This may require a meeting before or after school, dependent on the availability of the teacher.)
* Be **Respectful** (Treat others even better than the way you would like to be treated.)
* Be **Prepared**
  + Agenda book/planner
  + Several sharpened pencils
  + Science binder (2 -2 ½”) with loose leaf paper
  + Previous assignments
* Be **Positive** (Be a bucket-filler, not a bucket-dipper. Books & Philosophy from Carol McCloud) <http://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=have+you+filled+a+bucket&FORM=HDRSC3#view=detail&mid=73F1DE988FE667A17B5C73F1DE988FE667A17B5C>
* Be **On-Time** (With only 49 minutes per class, it is essential that we begin and end on time.)

***It is a TEAM expectation that all students complete work daily. Being unprepared is not a valid excuse and it is expected that all students explore every possibility, to complete their work!***

The consequences for infractions of this rule include a verbal warning, a note in the Agenda book (to be signed by parent/guardian), a phone call home and/or meeting/visit to the Guidance or Principal’s office.

Students **will be required** and are expected to take notes from lectures, labs, videos, and other forms of informative areas dealing with the content. These important notes can be regarded as the textbook and should be used and studied on a daily basis. *If there is no written homework assignment for the night, this notebook/self-created textbook, should be taken home and used as a resource for review.* Materials requested for science will include but are not limited to:

**(1)** 2” or 2.5” binder with **(2)** loose leaf paper, **(3)** (5) dividers, **(4)** several sharpened pencils and **(5)** the request item for the class. The request item for this class is: (***circle*** *the one the Mr. Pearson requests*). **Tissues Pencils Sanitizing surface wipes Notebook paper**

Tabs for the science binder should be placed in order from front to back as noted below (items should be placed in chronological order): **1. Vocabulary (KIM charts); 2. Notes; 3. Handouts; 4. Labs; 5. Assessments**

**Grading Policy (Blue-6 Science Teacher)**

Our grading system is based upon a total point system. The points earned will be divided by the total points possible. This applies to each interim report and report card, as well as their final grade. Grades are classified, usually, as, but not limited to, one of the following within the grade book:

* Warm-ups ● Labs
* Research ● Assessments
* Class work and work completed at home ⚫ Short and Long-term projects

The above classification of grades is not weighted. In other words, tests (for example) won’t necessarily hold the largest point values. Additionally, one particular grade in the grade book, over the course of grading period, should not cause a student’s average to plummet dramatically, providing their grades are consistently average or above. Parents and guardians may access how their child is doing academically from home on *Home Access Center (HAC)*. There are approximately 130 students that will need to be scored for every assessment. This number makes it difficult to give immediate feedback on assessments. Please note that there are **no opportunities for extra credit**, in compliance with the adopted policy of the Caesar Rodney School District. We **do** allow for retakes on **assessments** scoring **75% or less**. Your child will be afforded a maximum of three retakes per marking period. This **is** **discretionary** depending on individual circumstances. It is the responsibility of the students and his or her parents/guardians to make arrangements for the retake and we request of a parent signature acknowledging the previous score and that the opportunity has been made available by his or her teacher(s). Additionally, a mandatory before or after-school review or tutoring session may be required. Often, this may involve written acknowledgment from the parent/guardian of the assessment grade and possibility of a retake. This may not apply to projects or activities that extend beyond the regular class.

The **content and curriculum** for the sixth grade level coincides with Delaware’s State and National Standards. The content is primarily general science. There are four areas of focus for this school year that includes: Science as an Inquiry (in which students are engaged throughout the year); My Body & Me; Energy, Forces, Motion, and Electrical Energy; and Earth’s History.

There are no textbooks available for students. We have lab manuals that are used as guides along with other scientific resources. However, we only have a classroom set to be shared between the two teams at this grade level. There is an older science book series we have saved that is used for in-class resources occasionally. These are available for check-out upon student or parent/guardian request.

A successful school year is largely due in part to effective **communication** between the school and home and vice versa. The ***agenda books*** are the primary avenue of daily communication. This should accompany every student home on a regular basis. It is not to be used as a “homework assignment pad” only. It also conveys to the student and home what was done in-class, what is expected out of class, and when up-coming important events such as tests, quizzes, projects, research, and other assessments may be due. It is imperative that the agenda books are kept up to date. If an agenda is missed because of an absence from class**, the student is still responsible** for copying that missed agenda when she/he returns to class.

[](http://www.utpa.edu/dept/compliance/FinalStandardsofConduct-English/hotline.gif)

Communication is an essential component for the success of each student. We request that this be done through one of several avenues. The first avenue of daily communication, other than the **agenda book**, should be the school’s ***homework hotline*** which may be accessed daily **after 4:00 p.m.** This hotline will give information of what was accomplished in class and what is expected for class for that day or week. If concerns or questions arise, a brief message may be left on our voicemail. The Hotline number for Postlethwait Middle School is: **698-8410**, and our voicemail extension number is **224**. If a **PARENT/GUARDIAN** needs to contact us, please leave a brief message with the date and time, your name, your child’s name, the class period they are in, a contact point in which to reach you. If you only need the outgoing message, please hang up or switch extensions at the end of the message, as it will record your message, intentionally or not. We can also be reached via **email** at the following state address at the bottom of this letter.

Thank you in advance for your support. We look forward to a safe and productive school year.

Sincerely,

☞

**Use your smartphone to scan this QR code for online resources for Blue-6**.



Mr. D. L. Pearson

Blue-6 Science Teacher

* 1. X-224

[**david.pearson@cr.k12.de.us**](mailto:david.pearson@cr.k12.de.us)

I have read the letter and understand the expectations of **Blue-6 Science**. Please retain the first two pages of this

paper for your records. Complete the information below and return to Mr. Pearson by: **September 9, 2014.**

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

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

Parent/ Guardian Name (please print)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to student:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Please Check One Below

 We have a Home Access Center (HAC) login and will check it regularly.

 We do not have Home Access Center (HAC) and will sign up at Postlethwait as soon as possible.

We called the homework hotline and the outgoing “code-word” for period \_\_\_\_\_\_ was “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”

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