

Welcome Back

August 22, 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 7th grade at Boulder Creek School! I am delighted to be joining the dynamic staff here at BC. Thank you in advance for your support, encouragement, and help at home to provide this positive learning experience for your child.

A little bit about me: my name is Tim Hemeon. I have been teaching in the Enterprise Elementary School District for twenty-one years, most of it in a departmentalized science situation. Prior to 1991, my wife and I lived in Southern California and we both taught in Riverside. We have three children: a 21-year-old daughter, a 19-year-old son, and a 15-year-old son. Both of my sons are drummers; when I am not hearing paradiddle echoes, I like to relax by hiking, singing in a local folk duet, and writing novels.

I look forward to leading your child through the curriculum. I will be teaching your child 7th grade Science and 7th grade History.

Homework:

The amount of time each child spends on homework will depend on his/her use of class time, personal ability, and quality of effort. About one hour (total from all classes) is expected each night, in addition to independent reading. When I do assign homework, I will list the assignment on my website. Students may also have homework as needed to finish assignments from school.

Students are expected to write homework and class assignments in their planners daily. **Please check your child's planner and/or our class homepage nightly for a list of homework and class assignments.** Here is my website: bouldercreekhemeon.weebly.com

Daily assignments (10 points or less) not turned in on the due date will be considered late, will not receive full credit, and will be given zero credit until completed. All late assignments will be reduced to 70% if turned in by the end of the progress report period. Late assignments turned in after the standard report period ends will receive zero credit.

Absences:

Absent students are responsible for making up all missed work. The number of missed days is equal to the number of days to make up missed work. Missing assignments due to absences will not result in a late grade unless it is turned in after the given time.

If we do an experiment, I will usually post an example of a write-up using the scientific method on my website. Occasionally, students may need to obtain a handout from me upon their return.

Grading Policy:

Progress reports will be issued **every three weeks**. They will be sent home on Fridays. A parent signature is required for students who have a failing grade or are in danger of a failing grade. This will be noted on the progress report. **If your child does not return the signed progress report on time, you will receive a phone call.** Grades can be viewed online at anytime using Powerschool. <http://sis.enterprise.k12.ca.us/public>

Students' grades will be based on a percentage system as stated below.

A+ = 100%	B+ = 88-89%	C+ = 78-79%	D+ = 68-69%
A = 94-99%	B = 84-87%	C = 74-77%	D = 64-67%
A- = 90-93%	B- = 80-83%	C- = 70-73%	D- = 60-63%
			F = 0-59%

7th Grade History:

Mrs. Eoff and I will be collaborating/lesson planning throughout the year. We will begin with a basic review of geography (compass rose, continents, etc.) We will be using the Holt *World History: Medieval to Early Modern Times* textbook. Within the first few weeks of school I will provide students with a logon name and password. With this, they will be able to access the textbook and related features online.

Students will be required to present **one history-related news item per month**. Students can use the newspaper, an internet site, magazines, or other appropriate citations. Students will need to write a summary that explains the main ideas of the article and how it relates to our History class. Students will read their presentations to the class. The summary will be turned in with the article attached. The current event work will be assigned to the project portion of the grade. If students do more than one current event in a month, extra credit will be earned.

History Grade Breakdown

Tests 20%
Quizzes 20%
Classwork 20%

Participation 10%
Homework 10%
Projects/History Articles 20%

7th Grade Life Science:

I like to present a variety of learning situations to the students. I believe they learn the best when engaged with activity-based science. We will be doing lots of experiments in science class. From time to time I will request donations of various supplies – if you can assist us in this way I will be very appreciative. My philosophy of science is reflected in this quote of Confucius:

I hear and forget.
I see and I remember.
I do and I understand.

I expect students to keep their science section in **chronological order**. At the end of each chapter/unit, I will collect their work as a portfolio and will give a grade for organization.

Science Grade Breakdown

Tests 20%
Quizzes 20%
Labs 20%
Classwork 10%

Participation 10%
Homework 10%
Projects/Science Articles 10%

In addition to larger projects (such as a 3D cell) students will turn in **one science-related news article per month**. Students should write a one to two paragraph summary and attach the article.

Mr. Hemeon's Lab Safety Guidelines

1. Safe & Responsible behavior at all times
2. Follow directions carefully
3. Do not touch lab equipment until directed to do so
4. Use extreme caution when using sharp objects (such as dissection scalpels).
5. Do not eat/drink in science class without permission
6. Never use lab glassware as food/beverage containers
7. Horseplay, practical jokes, and pranks are dangerous and prohibited
8. Notify the teacher of any unsafe conditions you observe
9. Keep hands away from face, eyes, and mouth while using chemicals
10. Use gloves/safety glasses when directed to do so.
11. Please remain at your lab station – DO NOT go to other lab stations
12. Do not taste or smell any chemicals, unless directed to do so
13. If you do not understand how to use a piece of equipment, ask the teacher.
14. Never look into a container that is being heated

Mr. Hemeon's 7th Grade Science/History Classroom Materials:

1. **Rigid safety glasses** (typically \$1 - \$2 at Harbor Freight – avoid the soft goggles as they tend to fog up and the straps often fail. Students who already wear glasses do not need to buy safety goggles).
2. **Pencils and erasers** (all Science/History homework/class work must be done in pencil).
3. **Pencil sharpener with shaving catcher.**
4. **Blue Ball point pens** (for correcting).
5. **College ruled notebook paper (lots)**
6. A **three-ring binder** – Please don't purchase a fancy binder such as a Trapper Keeper. It just takes up more space and doesn't work any better (7th graders may be using a larger binder for two subjects).
7. **Colored Pencils.**
8. **100 ruled 3 x 5 index cards.**
9. **2-inch index card ring** (or some other way to organize them).
10. **USB Flash Drive** (used for all classes as needed).
11. **Book for SSR** (silent sustained reading).
12. (optional) Scientific **calculator** in the \$10 - \$15 range. You will not need an expensive graphing calculator. The calculator I will be using in class is the Casio fx-260 and it costs about \$10.00 at Walmart, Target, or Office Depot.
13. **Optional:** please consider donating a **box of latex or Nitrile gloves** (Costco carries Nitrile gloves).

I am looking forward to meeting you at **Back-to-School-Night, Thursday, September 6, 2012,** time to be determined.

Communication: if you have any questions, do not hesitate to drop by after school, call me at Boulder Creek: **224-4140**, or email me: themeon@eesd.net. I will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mr. Hemeon, Room 39
7th Grade Science
7th Grade History
8th Grade Science

Mr. Hemeon's Signature Page

Please read and review this letter with your child. After that, sign and return to indicate you are aware of the course expectations, materials list, & safety guidelines. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Print Student's Name

Period #

Date

Print Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Because email is often the preferred method of communication, please list ALL (both mom and dad if custody is shared) email addresses to which parent(s) would like email messages sent. In addition, please list all (home and cell) numbers for each parent. Please indicate which number belongs to whom. Thank you.

e-mail #1

home phone #

e-mail #2

cell phone #

e-mail #3

cell phone #