



September 2016

Dear Pittsburgh Obama 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Families,

Welcome to a new school and a new school year! My name is Barbara Hromiko and I am your child's 6<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher. I am delighted to have your child in my classroom this year as we explore topics related to physical, Earth/space, and life sciences. I have high hopes and expectations for each student in my class and look forward to working with you to make this a successful school year.

Students are expected to come to class each day ready to learn. Students are, therefore, expected to come to class each day prepared. Your child should have the following items in class:

- ✓ Agenda book – Agenda books are required to leave the room for the restroom, nurse, or other reason as well as being used to record assignments and for organization.
- ✓ Writing utensil (pencil or blue or black pen)
- ✓ Completed homework or other assignments
- ✓ Science folder – a science notebook will remain in the classroom
- ✓ DEAR time book

Students should arrive to class on time. If your child comes to class late without a signed agenda book, he/she will be marked tardy in the grade book attendance. If there are four tardies in a report period, disciplinary action may be taken. You will be notified before the fourth time happens.

### Class Work, Participation, Homework, and Grading Expectations

Daily class work should be finished during class. Any work not finished in class as it should have been is to be completed as homework and is due at the beginning of the next class period. All assignments should be submitted on time. Late work may result in a loss of point value.

Students are expected to assist in making a productive classroom environment by participating in all activities and assignments with minimal redirection and without classroom disruption. Students can earn up to ten (10) points each week in participation, two (2) points per day. Points come from being on time, being prepared, completing warm-ups, behaving acceptably, and participating in class work. This is the only way to earn your participation grade.

Homework will be assigned at least three times a week, Monday through Wednesday, and is normally due the following day at the beginning of class. Students should record their homework assignments in their agenda book. Students who do not have their completed homework will fill out a Student Responsibility sheet - pink slip. Pink slips will be kept as a record of missing or late homework. Late homework will be accepted but with a reduction in points. Late homework is still better than no homework, which is recorded as a zero (0) in the grade book. Late homework will *only* be accepted if a pink slip has been filled out. I encourage students to turn



## Barack Obama Academy of International Studies

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homework in on time each day. The homework assignment each Wednesday will be a Science Article Summary, due by Friday (or Thursday if we have Friday off). Students will find a science-related article in a newspaper, magazine, or online. A copy of the article or the specific web address will accompany the brief (2-3 sentences of key ideas) article summary. A summary sheet will be provided.

Students who are absent from school should make up work within the number of days missed from school. Absent students should see Ms. Hromiko at the beginning of class during the warm-up time or at lunch to get missing assignments. Work can be made up at home or during lunch, which may be necessary in the case of lab activities. Students who miss class due to instrumental or sports should get missing assignments before the end of the day so they can be turned in the next day in class. Please inform me ahead of time if class will be missed for these reasons so I can mark the grade book attendance appropriately.

There will be no opportunities for extra credit. Students should make every effort to complete work on time and to their best effort to receive the highest possible grade during each report period.

All work is graded and fits into the following weighted categories:

- Assessment 25%
- Class work 25%
- Homework 10%
- Participation 20%
- Writing 20%

According to district guidelines, 90-100%=A, 80-89%=B, 70-79%=C, 60-69%=D, 50-59%=E.

Assessments will include science reflections, tests and quizzes, projects, homework, class assignments, and notebook entries. Selected assessments will be graded utilizing the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme Assessment Areas. The areas are the following: Criterion A – Knowing and Understanding, Criterion B – Inquiring and Designing, Criterion C – Processing and Evaluating, and Criterion D – Reflecting on the Impacts of Science.

### Discipline Policy

I want our classroom to be a peaceful and productive environment and so students are expected to follow all the school rules as outlined in the student handbook. Additionally, students are expected to follow the established classroom procedures as posted in the classroom and discussed in class. While I hope students will comply with our expectations, difficulties may arise and the following discipline policy will be used.

1. Verbal warnings and a loss of participation points
2. Behavior Notification Slip – a note describing the issue, to be signed by parent/guardian and returned the following day
3. Lunch detention with Ms. Hromiko – All students who receive lunch detention from me will have a note to take home to get signed. If this note is not returned the following day,





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your child will have lunch detention to call home to let you know to ask for the note to be signed.

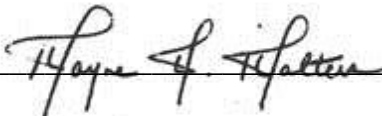
4. Parental contact by phone, email, or text
5. Request for conference with parent or guardian
6. Referral to office – Severe class disruptions such as fighting can result in an immediate referral to the office.

Again, I look forward to this school year with your child in my science classroom. Please fill out the form below and return it with your child so I have the most current information on how to contact you. I hope that my phone calls home and other contact with you will be helpful in producing a successful student. One of my favorite things as a teacher is to call home to say how wonderfully your child is doing in class.

Please feel free to contact me via email at bhromiko2@pghboe.net or by calling my voicemail at 412-529-8441 and leaving a message. I will try to respond as soon as possible. You are also always welcome to visit my classroom (just check in with the office first).

Sincerely,

Ms. Barbara Hromiko

Principal Approval: 

Please detach and return to Ms. Hromiko

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: 6-\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address with ZIP code: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Text messages OK?: Y or N

Additional Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Text messages OK?: Y or N

What time of day is best to reach you? \_\_\_\_\_

Email address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred method of contact:    Phone                      Text                      Email                      Mail

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make any additional comments on the back. Thanks!

