Dear Students,

Welcome to 8th grade science! This year you will be studying Physical Science, which is the study of matter and energy. It is an introductory course in Chemistry and Physics, covering topics such as motion and forces, kinds and sources of energy, types of matter (solids, liquids and gases), the Periodic Table and the study of the elements. Additionally, we will expand on previous learning in the fields of Earth Science and Environmental Science. The NYS Science exams will be given in late May and early June. The test has two parts; a hands-on lab assessment and a written test with multiple choice and short answer questions. In order to be successful in this class, and on the state assessment, you must know and accomplish the expectations and requirements of this course.

Please read this information thoroughly and discuss it with your parents.

Parents, if at any time you have questions or problems you can contact me at school (654-9005) and I will call you back as soon as possible. I can also be contacted by e-mail at newellk@corinthcsd.org. Appointments can also be made through the Guidance Office, especially if you would like to meet with all the 8th grade teachers.

I am looking forward to a wonderful year in Physical Science.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kathleen Newell
Science 8-Course Requirements

**Materials** – Please have a binder filled with loose-leaf paper and a pen/pencil for use in class. You will need to bring your materials **EVERY DAY**.

**Procedure** – Laboratory assignments, classroom activities and special projects will provide students with hands-on experiences to help them to think and act like a scientist. Students will also be assigned readings, homework questions, research and investigations that will reinforce classroom work. Each student will keep their binder up to date with notes, handouts, returned papers, homework and tests. A well-kept binder will help students study for quizzes and unit exams and may be used during open notebook tests.

**Laboratory Activities** – Throughout the year, students will have the opportunity to participate in many laboratory activities. Many of these involve special equipment, chemicals, and safety precautions. Students will need to know and follow the Rules of the Lab:

1. Handle **all** materials carefully
2. Use **all** materials for their intended purpose only
3. When finished, correctly replace materials where they belong
4. Use safety equipment properly, when required (i.e. safety goggles, gloves)
5. Report **any** accident or broken equipment to the teacher immediately. **DO NOT** attempt to clean up broken glass by yourself!!!

**Participation** - Students are expected to participate in classroom activities and discussions. Students are also expected to follow classroom rules, laboratory rules and school policies.

**Classroom Rules** –

1. Show respect for yourself, your classmates and your teacher by not speaking when others are speaking. Please raise your hand and wait to be called on to speak. All students should have a chance to learn. A student who disrupts others and the learning process will not be tolerated.
2. No food or drinks are allowed in the classroom unless authorized by Ms. Newell.
3. I expect you will be in class on time and ready to work each and every day. You can expect that I will be ready to teach you and prepare you for the NYS Intermediate Level Science Assessment. Asking questions, taking good notes and reviewing them regularly, will help you be successful in this class. If you need extra help I am available.
**Homework** - Assignments will consist of reading, answering questions, review sheets, research, completing lab write-ups and even a long-term project. Expect to receive homework 2-3 times a week. Most of the assignments will be very short, while others more difficult and time consuming and will be assigned over a number of days. **Late homework is not accepted unless the student has been absent.** At the end of the quarter the lowest homework grade will be dropped.

**Grading** - You will be graded on a variety of different aspects in this class:

- **Homework** will be 10% of your grade
- **Classwork** some classwork will be graded and will be 10% of your grade.
- **Quizzes** 25% of your grade will come from quizzes given about once a week.
- **Unit Test** 25% of your grade will come from a unit test.
- **Labs and Projects** will constitute 30% of your grade. If a homework assignment is to complete a lab, then homework points will also be received if completed on time.

**Daily Class Procedures** -

1. Enter the room quietly, take your seat immediately. The agenda for the day will be posted, follow the directions.
2. Check the homework board and the homework calendar.
3. Copy the homework assignment into your agenda
4. Class begins on time. Anyone arriving after the door is closed is considered late and will be marked tardy.
5. Begin the bell ringer, reading assignment or project listed on the board while attendance is being taken and homework is being checked. This work is to be done **SILENTLY and INDEPENDENTLY** unless otherwise noted on the board.
6. Class will be dismissed by Ms. Newell. **DO NOT** start packing up until you have been dismissed. Leave your seating area clean and your chair pushed in for the next class.

**Absences** - If you are absent be sure to check with Ms. Newell when you return. Make arrangements to make up all missed work. Homework MUST be made up immediately to receive credit. Missed labs must be made up during recess, a study hall or after school.

**Communication** - I believe in close communication with parents. Parents will know when students are disturbing class, when homework is not being done, when you have done poorly on tests or if labs are not turned in. Parents will also know when you are a hardworking student.