What do I need?

- A science notebook (for notes, activities, and experiments in class)
- A folder (for other papers and some homework)
- Plenty of pencils and pens (you will need a writing instrument every day)
- Sometimes you will also need colored pencils or markers, a ruler and clear tape
- Textbook (will be handed out in class): *Interactive Science (Forces & Energy; Intro to Chemistry; Sound & Light)* Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2013
- Charged iPad (once handed out)
- Online resource: *Discovery Education techbook: http://www.discoveryeducation.com/*

What will we learn?

- **Introductory Science** – science vs. engineering, quantitative and qualitative observations, inferences, process, variables and controlled experiments, metric measurement, graphing
- **Force and Motion** – speed of object in straight line, position vs. time, speed vs. time, balanced vs. unbalanced forces, effect of force on motion, action of forces on objects in contact vs. objects at a distance
- **Matter** – states of matter, physical properties and changes, density, dissolving, compression, diffusion, thermal expansion, conservation of mass, heat and motion
- **Energy** – types of energy, potential and kinetic energy, energy transformation, heat energy transfer, properties of waves, sound, light
- **Engineering** – Whirligigs, Parachute Challenge, Save the Penguins (STEAM Project), Mousetrap Cars, Rube Goldberg Machines

Units will include the following:

- Teacher and student presentations and demonstrations
- Labs and related hands-on activities
- Lessons that focus on science/engineering process skills, thinking skills, qualitative and quantitative observations, accuracy, lab write-ups and graphing

How will I be graded?

The school year at Highland Park Junior High is divided into four quarters with a mid-term progress report and a final grade report for each quarter. Student achievement on summative assessments will be based on the following IB MYP criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MYP level</th>
<th>Percentage on an 8 point scale</th>
<th>Letter Grade Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>87%</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>75%</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>37%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
• **Practice—daily assignments:** Student daily assignments are essential practice for the quizzes, tests, and projects that demonstrate what students know and what they can do. Practice will include a variety of graded and non-graded small-group and individual class assignments. Examples may include: homework, day-to-day activities, formative assessments, and participation.

All assessments will be graded on a scale of 0-8. Ultimately, **100% of a student’s grade will be based on performance tasks!**

• **Performance—quizzes/tests/papers/projects/presentations:** Students will demonstrate their learning and understanding of the MN State Standards through Performance activities.

Relearning and Retakes:
• All formatives work must be completed to qualify for a retake on the summative
• Any reassessment must include a completed relearning activity prior to the assessment taking place.
• The reassessment grade replaces the original grade.

**What are the Classroom Expectations?**
Everyone at Highland Middle is expected to give their best effort every day. We will discuss what this looks like specifically in class. We will also review safety expectations for all science equipment. If at any time a student chooses not to follow the classroom expectations, there will be an appropriate consequence depending on the severity of the action.

**How Can Parents Help?**
1. Check Schoology
   • Look for course updates that summarize the day’s activities
   • Lessons and assignments are posted if available digitally
   • Grades are updated weekly
2. Encourage a study period before tests.
3. Encourage organization. Many test questions come directly from notes/handouts.

4. A $10 lab fee donation is requested to help cover the cost of making this (materials intensive) class as engaging as possible for all of my students. **THANK YOU!**

**Notes:**