

Hello! I just wanted to drop a quick note your way to say “Hi” and to let you know what you can expect for your son/daughter this semester in my class. My name is Kevin Hall. I graduated from the University of California at Davis, and I teach Chemistry, AP Physics, and Electronics here at North Thurston High School.

## Notebook / Lab Notebook

Your son/daughter will be expected to buy a **graph paper** (quad rule) composition book. We will be doing all of our lab writeups in this book. Some students have told me they like these for notes as well, so you may want to buy two. Students should get their notebooks by Friday, Sept. 12. We will be using them in class starting that day. They are available for about two dollars at many of the stores that carry the regular composition books (Office Depot, Staples, etc.). If this is a hardship, please drop me an email, quick call, or have your student let me know after class. The stores run out of these *every* year, so please try to get it early. If the stores are out, the college bookstores (Evergreen, St. Martin's, SPSCC) almost always have these.

## Homework

In the past, a number of parents have asked whether or not their sons/daughters should have homework to do in the evenings, and if so, how much. The short answer: Yes, they should, and quite a bit! The key to doing well on the AP test (and in life, of course) is practice and perseverance. Students who take good notes and practice extra problems do better – it's as simple as that. I've had **very** bright students who did not take notes and not come to extra study sessions get a 1 or 2 on the AP test and wonder what happened. If they are done with the homework from our current unit, they should pull out a problem or two from previous units just to make sure they still remember how to do those types of problems. Five hours a week is a reasonable estimate.

In addition, I recommend your student also get a study/review guide like the Princeton Review or Barron's to work from as well. I cannot overemphasize the difference that practice makes for these AP science classes.

## Quizzes / Tests

There will be 2-3 unannounced quizzes each week. In addition, there will be a unit test every 2-3 weeks. On the evening before a unit test, your son/daughter should spend a good hour or more preparing for the test. Also, please see the classroom management handout for the exam makeup/retake policy.

## Questions / Concerns

I am *always* delighted to talk to parents, and my door is always open if you care to stop by. You can contact me at kevinqhall@netscape.net, or leave a message for me by phoning the high school, and I'll get back to you as soon as possible. I'd also be happy to make an appointment with you to meet in person as well.

There's more information about my class on the classroom management sheet I gave my students. **Please** ask your child to share that sheet with you as well. In addition, I have a website for the students at:

<http://scienceclass.dreamhosters.com>

You can access the website directly at that address or you can access it via the school website under my name in the staff listings. The website will have information on what is due and when, and I also put copies of most of the assignments on the website, so if the students misplace their papers, they can always print things up from the website.

Please keep this sheet for yourself, sign the second page of this form and send it back with your son/daughter. It's considered an assignment, and they will receive points for it.

( more on back )

Also, there are couple optional sections on the last page that may be of interest to you:

- 1) Student Role Model
- 2) Parents in the Classroom

**Student Role Model** - I'd like to get the name and contact (either phone or email) of a person that you think your son/daughter looks up to. This could be a grandparent, aunt/uncle, neighbor, pastor/priest/rabbi/etc., family friend, etc. The idea is that I'd like to send a couple notes out over the semester to this person letting them know that your son/daughter is struggling, doing exceptionally well, or you could even drop a note my way letting me know what news you'd like me to pass on. I'd like that person to then relay what they've heard to your son or daughter. I've found in the past that when the kids work in a vacuum, many of them don't remain as motivated, but if folks let them know they're concerned or proud, this tends to have an impact on their learning. Please don't feel that you have to participate, but if you think it would be helpful with your child, or if you have someone in mind that you think might like hearing how your child is doing, feel free to add the info on the next page.

**Parents in the Classroom** - I *love* to have parents come into my classroom. You don't have to have any background in science -- I'll provide that. Your time and energy and a desire to make a difference with our young ones is all that's required. Your presence and voice are highly valued, and if you'd like to spend a little time getting to see your students and/or their peers from a whole different perspective, I guarantee both the kids and you will come away richer for the experience. You can participate in your own student's class, if you'd like, or a separate class. Either is fine with me. There is a background check involved, so if you're interested, please indicate so on the following page, and I'll get you all the details. You can also change your mind, but it's good to get the background check out of the way just in case as it takes a little while to complete. Please consider this opportunity. I'd love to have you be part of my classes!!

I want to make sure your son/daughter is well prepared for high school, college, and life in general. Anything you can do to help make sure homework is being done or that your son/daughter is keeping up with the material is **greatly** appreciated. I'm a parent myself, so I understand busy schedules and the work involved just keeping everything going, but I know that together as parent and teacher, we can give them a good head start.

Thanks always!

Kevin Hall  
Science Dept., NTHS

**Parent Note**

**Mr. Hall - AP Physics**

Please sign this sheet to let me know you got my "Note to the Parents", fill out any of the appropriate sections, and be sure to write me a brief note below if you have any extra concerns or comments you'd like me to read!

---

---

ROLE MODEL FOR YOUR STUDENT (optional)

Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Role Model contact info (phone or email): \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

PARENTS IN THE CLASSROOM (optional)

Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

I'd be interested in helping out     occasionally     once a week     every day  
 not now, but I'd like more info as I may help in the future

---

---

Your Comments/Concerns:

Parent's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Student's name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_