

Student Name: _____



"The primary goal of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District is to be a premier school district in the United States of America"

13 August 2013

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the Cleveland School of Science and Medicine at John Hay Campus for the 2013-2014 school year. My name is Rodney Decipeda and I consider it a privilege to be your child's Physical Science instructor. Working together with you and other instructors as a team will definitely help make this school year an academic success for your child.

I have been working with young adults for over twenty years. Before becoming a science teacher, I was the director of youth and college outreach at Harmony Church and Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania. My previous teaching experience includes Lincoln-West High School in the Cleveland Metropolitan Schools where I taught 9th grade Physical Science and Biology. I also have also taught the entrepreneurship course E CITY after school at Lincoln-West and during the summer at Tri-C Metro Campus and Case Western Reserve University. In addition to classroom instruction, I was an assistant football coach at Lincoln-West and am currently the head football coach at John Hay High School.

I consider the Physical Science course that I teach to be that which lays the foundation of scientific knowledge for the remainder of your child's science studies in high school and in higher education. In my class, we will start the year establishing that foundation by examining scientific ways of knowing, data collection, data analysis, logic, and basic concepts of matter and energy. We will then move into the topic of chemistry, motion, and waves. We will finish off the semester investigating electricity and magnetism, water in the earth system, geology, and then finish the semester studying astronomy.

While every lesson builds on state science standards and will develop the skills required necessary for the new Ohio Department of Education PARC assessment in physical science, an additional goal is to help your child become a more effective problem-solver by thinking scientifically and working collaboratively with others on a team. We are all born with an inquisitive nature and are fascinated by the physical world around us. I hope to nurture or recapture that curiosity in your child and see them develop a love for learning.

I look forward to an academically challenging year working with you and other teachers to help build your child's skills and knowledge. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have questions or would like to know more about our curriculum. Together we will make this first year of your child's high school career a success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney C. Decipeda".

Rodney C. Decipeda, M.Ed.
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www.mrdecipeda.com

Parent / Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____