## To the parents of my students:

I have a computer based system of instruction which I have been developing over the past 25 years. Except for the final exam, we do not administer tests in my class. Tests are used to measure how much a student knows on a particular day. In my classes assignments, which my look like tests, are actually used as a teaching tool. During a grading period, students may re-do assignments as often as they choose until they get the grade they desire. After a student does an assignment it is graded by the computer and immediately shows them the correct answers for questions they have gotten wrong. They can study the correct answers and re-do the assignment the next day to improve their score. The students can retake their assignment as many times as they desire until they get the score they want.

As you can see, grades in my class are very fluid. I do this because every student does not learn at the same pace or in the same way. Grades in my classes are based on how much a student is willing to work, not on how much a student knows on a particular test day. I can easily examine student assignments and tutor them in areas that they are having trouble. The computers make this possible because of the way assignments are graded.

Jupiter is a wonderful program for communicating with parents but since I administer an assignment almost every day and students can continually re-do their assignments I may have a hundred or more changing grades every day. It is not practical for me to enter grades by hand on a daily basis. My entire day would be consumed with entering grades and I would have no time left for instruction or student remediation. Also, parents could never be sure that the grade they see in Jupiter Grades is the accurate current grade. Therefore, instead of entering a static grade for each assignment I will only enter the grade for each grading period, which is static and does not change.

I have developed many other ways that parents can monitor student progress in my classes. I have a web site, <a href="www.edtechnology.com">www.edtechnology.com</a>, through which parents can request a current student grade, updated on a daily basis. They can also use the site to see what we are doing in class. There are lots of tutorials, practice assignments and video's that the students can use to master the subjects we are working on. There is a link on the landing page for our site that parents can use to request the current grade of their son or daughter. A detailed grade report is sent back to the parents on the same day it is requested.

Parent communication is an important part of education. After all, it is YOUR school and I am your public servant. Parents, not educators should have the last word when it comes to the education of their children. With that in mind, I hold daily office hours, 11:30 pm to 12:30 pm, at which time parents can have a LIVE meeting with me over the internet to discuss the progress of their son or daughter. I use a program called "Join Me" that allows us to have a *live meeting*. The beauty is that you do not have to come to the school in person. I can share my desktop, show current assignments and grades and discuss any concerns you may have. You can use your personal computer to communicate and there are even apps available that allow you to communicate using your smart phone or tablet. If you do not have a microphone or sound on your computer I can provide you with a free conference call number through which we can chat.

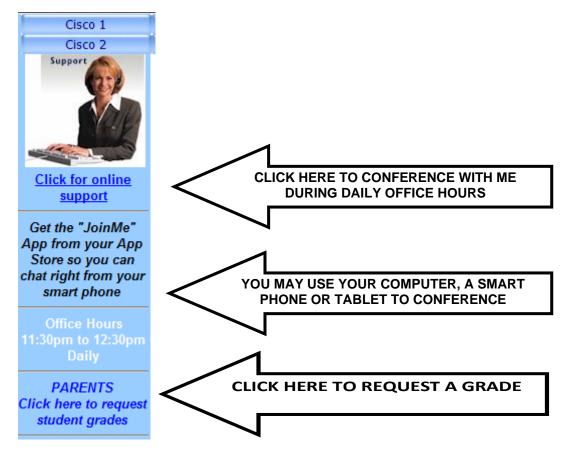
Also, if your son or daughter is sick and absent for an extended period of time I can work with them, live over the internet, so they do not get too far behind. I can work with as many as 250 students at one time using my "Join Me," program and the learning aids offered on my web site.

There are detailed instructions on the next page that show you how to access the tools I have discussed above. I look forward to hearing from you. Together we can help your son or daughter to succeed in school.

Please accept my apology for missing Open House. I teach classes at Southwestern College and tonight is the first night of class. I have to be there for the first night.

Please visit our web site at, <a href="www.edtechnology.com">www.edtechnology.com</a> Using this site you will be able to see the assignments that we are working on. We have video's and other resources to help the students succeed in class.

Also, from the page you can request a grade print-out that shows each assignment and up-to-date grades. Our grades are updated daily.



In my classes, students can retake assignments as many times as they want in order to get better grades. In reality it is hard to fail my classes because students can re-do their assignments as often as they need to .I am in class for make-ups, re-do's and tutoring according to the following schedule.

## **TUTORING SCHEDULE**

Every day 6am
Every lunch hour
Every Day Period 6 (1:30 to 2:15)
Every Saturday, 8am till noon
Sometimes at night, 3:30 to 7:30

Please feel free to call me on my cell phone at any time, 619 252-9522 Look forward to hearing from you.

Frank Schneemann, MS EdTech Bonita Vista High School Southwestern College National University San Diego City College

## **Class Rules:**

- Students are expected to behave in a mature responsible manner
- No food or drinks in the classroom
- Cell phone use only in the center of the room at desks with the consent of the instructor
- Outside class work with the consent of the instructor
- Students are expected to be in class on time
  - o Refer to the student handbook for school/district policies

## WORKSTATION (COMPUTER) RULES

- If students <u>communicate</u> with another student while at the workstations, it is assumed that they are cheating and they will receive an F grade on the assignment and lowered citizenship grade
- o If I <u>see</u> a cell phone while students are at the workstations I will assume they are using the phone to cheat and they will receive an F on the assignment and lowered citizenship grade.
- You may refer to the student handbook for the district policies regarding electronic devices. My rules are in compliance with district standards