

HOW TO SUCCEED IN CHEMISTRY

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Now that you are enrolled in this class, there are several things that I (Mr. St. Clair) will expect from you and that you should expect from me. If things go well, we will all get along.

Grading Policies

TESTS & QUIZZES 55%

Tests given at the end of a chapter or section with ample notice. Quizzes are given with at least 1 day of notice. The quiz average at the end of the marking period will count as a test grade. Quizzes and tests will not occupy an entire block period. NO SURPRISE QUIZZES!

LABS 10%

This grade is based on your ability to work cooperatively in your group and not "slack off" during the double period lab time. This grade includes your results AS WELL AS your lab participation! Your grade for each lab will be a combination of your lab write-up/results AS WELL AS a lab "attitude" grade. What you must remember is that a laboratory experiment MAY NOT always give you the perfect results. Even history's greatest scientists had bad lab days.

HOMEWORK 10%

Given and checked and collected on a regular basis!

CLASS ATTITUDE 5%

Includes class participation and preparation! Each class, you will be able to earn a maximum of 3 points. The three "P's" of classwork are "preparation, productivity and purpose. You will earn a point for being prepared (pencil/calculator/notebook), a point for being productive (not sleeping, being engaged and participation), and a point for being purposeful in class (not having phone out, not taking too long to go to the bathroom). Your grade at the end of the MP will be the average of all of these points.

QUARTERLY EXAM 20%

This is a summative assessment at the end of each marking period on the material covered during that marking period. The format of the test will be multiple choice, short answer and open ended test. Although the exams are not cumulative, the chemistry course is a cumulative course. This means that material we will cover in the first marking period will be necessary to retain later in the school year.

EXTRA CREDIT

Once in a while on a test. Do NOT depend on it to pass the course.

It will be my responsibility to keep you posted of your progress. I will post grades periodically during the marking period. As the year progresses, I will keep you posted of your yearly progress. Each marking period will be worth 25%.

My Expectations

GIVE AN HONEST EFFORT AND WORK HARD

- The first and most important requirement I have of you in this class is a simple one- *AN HONEST EFFORT*. I will give an honest effort every day to teach you; all I ask in return is to give me an honest effort in the classroom. Even if you hate Chemistry or are not a straight "A" student, I will never, ever fault you if I think you are putting forth an honest effort. Besides, you never know what you might learn.....

MY CLASS WEBSITE

- In the past year, I developed a website to provide missed work, additional resources and a chance for parents to keep tabs on class activities. It isn't much, but the web address is mrsaintsscience.weebly.com. Here, you can access homework assignments, documents, videos and other resources that will help you be successful in chemistry this year.

ATTENDANCE

- Try not to be ill too often or miss class purposely. You will miss out.
- The MHSN attendance policy of 10 "A" day absences and 10 "B" day absences before a loss of credit will be strictly enforced.
- **PLAIN AND SIMPLE- THE MORE TIME YOU MISS CLASS, THE MORE TIME YOU WILL HAVE TO SPEND WITH ME AFTER SCHOOL TO MAKE UP ALL OF YOUR WORK. JUST MAKE IT EASIER ON BOTH OF US, COME TO CLASS!**
- You may be able to make up missed work during the lunch block.
- If you will be out for an extended period of time and require home instruction, arrangements can be made, so you won't miss a beat in the classroom!
- I will try to be here as much as I can. I have had this question posed to me- "Mr. Saint, are you ever absent?" If I will not be here on a certain day, I will let you know in advance, unless I am gravely ill, have personal issues, the birth of a child, the moving into a new house, or in an accident. Otherwise, **I WILL BE HERE!**

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Come to class prepared. (notebook, pen, pencil, calculator, handouts)
- Take notes and **ASK QUESTIONS!** The more questions you ask, the more you will learn, and the more interesting the class will be.
- Get all assignments in **ON TIME!** This includes all make-up work!
- A two-week grace period is given for all make-up tests, quizzes, labs, or assignments. Failure to do so will result in a grade of **ZERO** for that particular assignment.
- If you need more help, we can arrange remedial help sessions before or after school. I get to school at 7 AM every day and here until after 2:30 every day after school.
- Since mathematics is the language of science, there will be a lot of "number crunching." I have a limited number of calculators available, but it wouldn't be a bad idea to have your own.

RESPECT

- This is what life is all about. In order to earn respect, you must give it.
- Foul language will not be tolerated in this class. The use of foul or abusive language accomplishes nothing except a limited vocabulary on your part.
- All incidents during class will be dealt with after school. Any further incidents will involve conferences with parents and counselors.

PRACTICE COMMON SENSE

- If you think your actions or behavior might in any way hurt or annoy anyone else or is not becoming of a civilized individual, chances are, you are probably right. **THINK AND USE YOUR BRAIN BEFORE YOU DO OR SAY ANYTHING THAT WILL EMBARRASS OR HURT YOU OR ANYONE ELSE.**

FOOD

- I realize that the school day is a long one and that young adults crave food all day long. This brings up one problem, **YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO HAVE FOOD IN A SCIENCE CLASSROOM.** Chances are that you either just had a lunch period or you will have one within the next 2 or 3 periods and your craving stomachs will have to wait until then. If you think you are starving, just think about the poor people who have to wait days for a meal.

CELL PHONES

- The policy is simple- If I don't see it, I can't take it away. Unless you using your phone for educational purposes, it should be away.

APPAREL

- In accordance to the new Middletown High School North policy, the dress policy will be strictly enforced. This goes for both women and men. The women's dress code has been well documented with the length of skirts and revealing clothing. The new dress policy in regards to men involves the "droopy drawers." No one wants to see if you are wearing boxers or briefs. Keep the pants pulled up.

ATTITUDE

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude to me is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than success, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company... a church... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one thing we have, and that is our attitude...I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our attitudes."

-Charles Swindoll

Of course, no agreement is final until there is a signed contract. This is your first homework assignment of the school year. I would like you to bring this contract home and have you and your parent(s)/guardian(s) fill in the pertinent information, sign and return this contract. Thank you.

STUDENT/TEACHER CONTRACT

I, _____, have read the attached guidelines concerning this class. I completely understand what I have read and understand what is expected of me. If I try to meet the aforementioned guidelines, I will be able to succeed in this class. I have read the course proficiencies and lab safety guidelines and understand what is expected of me. I am here to make myself a better person. This is my job.

STUDENT SIGNATURE

_____ Date _____

I, the parent or guardian of the above student, understand that my child is taking this course. If there are any questions or problems concerning the above student's progress in this course, I will not hesitate to contact Mr. St. Clair, either through school or via email.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s)
Name (Please Print) _____


Signature _____ Date _____

Contact Information:

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

I, Mr. Timothy St. Clair, understand that it is my responsibility to teach and guide the above student to the best of my abilities and keep the above student posted of his/her progress, either good or bad. I promise not to hesitate to contact the parent/guardian of the above student at the appropriate time regarding any issues. This is my job.



Mr. Timothy St. Clair
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