“Do all your own work, check the answer key, ask questions & don’t get behind.”

Welcome to Chemistry! This is my favorite subject to teach and I try hard to teach it well. Your questions are expected, welcome and encouraged. You will probably have some difficulty, so feel free to contact me. I am here most days before and after school. The worst thing you can do is to copy someone else’s work when you don’t know how to do something! The most successful students are not the ones who don’t have trouble; they are the ones who ask questions until they understand the material.

MATERIALS: You will need a scientific calculator and a pair of goggles. If you don’t have your goggles from last year, they can be purchased from me for $4.00. You may NOT use a graphing calculator on tests or quizzes.

BOOKS: A class set of books is available in the room. Please keep yours at home to read or use as needed. The current replacement value for this textbook is $83.97 plus shipping.

BOARD QUESTIONS: I will have questions written on my board nearly every day. You are expected to be working on this assignment as soon as the bell rings to start class. These board questions vary from skill practice and concept application to critical thinking and lab safety exercises. A 100 point effort grade will be taken each quarter over whether or not you are working on these board questions at the bell.

HOMEWORK AND MAKE-UP WORK: A weekly schedule of daily activities and homework assignments is posted on my board, on my webpage and can be e-mailed to you upon request. You are expected to be aware of this schedule. Do not rely on me to remind you of when you need to bring your lab binder to class or when you need to dress for lab. Students are responsible for making sure their work is turned in to the box on the day that it is due. You are also responsible for scheduling make-up labs within two days of an absence. Labs will only be available for make-up within five school days of the original date.

LAB DRAWERS & EQUIPMENT: You will shortly be assigned a locked lab draw full of equipment. This equipment is your responsibility throughout the year. The key to your lab drawer will remain in my possession except during lab time. If you lose or break the key, it will cost $5.00 to replace it. If you or your lab partner fails to return your key after lab, you will be fined $1.00. You are financially responsible for any equipment that breaks or is missing from your lab drawer at the end of the year.

LAB SAFETY: I take your safety in my class very seriously. You must dress properly for all labs, be attentive to lab directions, study each lab before class & follow all safety rules during lab.

GRADING: Your grade will be an average of your accumulated points. Tests are each 100 points, labs will typically be 50 points, quizzes will run 10 – 20 points and daily work will be 10 points. I keep track of your class participation for a 100 point grade at the end of every quarter.

CHEATING: This has become an increasing issue in recent years. If at any point, you are not doing your own work on any question or if you are allowing someone else to copy from you, it is cheating. Another type of cheating involves having someone “walk you through” a problem. If you can do similar problems after this help, it was not cheating. If you cannot, it is cheating. In addition to the damage to your self-esteem and your education, school policy states that you will receive a zero for the entire assignment and your parents will be contacted. Students caught cheating twice will receive an F for the grading period in this class.
TESTS/QUIZZES: Chapter tests are repeatable. Quizzes are not repeatable. If you retake a chapter test, I will keep the most recent grade in the gradebook.

THE 150% RULE:
No student who fails a test may score higher on any assignment than 150% of the test grade covering that assignment.
For example: A student gets a 100% on a lab and a 50% on the chapter test that covers the lab. The lab grade is reduced to 150% of the test grade (150%) x 50 = 75% for the lab.
The 150% rule is not a threat to anyone who understands the material. It takes only a 50% on a test to support assignment grades up to 75%. Passing the test on a retake will reverse this change.

THE 100% RULE:
If an assignment is turned in late, it cannot receive a grade higher than the test grade covering the assignment. In this class, late work will be defined as any assignment that is turned in after that assignment has been graded and passed back to students.
Many high school students are overwhelmed, now and then, by the weight of school, extra-curricular, job and family responsibilities. The time will come when even the most conscientious student will fail to get a lab or homework assignment in on time. For example: a student isn't able to turn in a 10-point worksheet on time. I will mark the assignment as late. If the student's test grade is an 80%, then the student will receive 80% of the 10 points = 8 points. Again, test retakes will affect your late grade.

Rationale: I have no interest in punishing you for time conflicts or for needing extra time to understand the material. If you can verify, under exam conditions, that you have a thorough understanding of the material, you can earn full credit for the assignment.

The last day to turn in late work will be the last day of the quarter for Quarters 1 and 3 and the last day before exams start for Quarters 2 and 4.

I am looking forward to this school year with you. Feel free to let me know privately of any suggestions or concerns you may have with the course. If there is something I could be doing that would help you learn better, I would like to know about it!

______________________________________
Student Signature

_______________________________________
Parent/Guardian Signature