

FORMULA FOR SUCCESS IN SCHOLARSHIP CHEMISTRY 2013-2014

“Work hard, ask questions, do your own work & don’t get behind.”

Welcome to Scholarship Chemistry! This is my favorite subject to teach and I try hard to teach it well. However, you will probably have some difficulty at some point because chemistry can be difficult, so feel free to contact me or any chemistry teacher for extra help before school, during plan periods and after school. I teach primarily with guided inquiry lessons, labs and notes. We will cover the traditional high school chemistry topics, preparing you for Physics and/or AP Chemistry.

MATERIALS: You will need a scientific calculator and a pair of goggles. If you don’t have your goggles from biology last year, they can be purchased from me for \$4.00. The current replacement value for a lost or damaged textbook is \$123.90 plus shipping. You may NOT use a graphing calculator on tests or quizzes.

BOOKS: My class uses the text Introductory Chemistry by Steve Russo and Mike Silver.

LAB DRAWERS & EQUIPMENT: You will shortly be assigned a locked lab drawer 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 the key, it will cost \$5.00 to replace it. If you or your lab partner fails to return your key after lab, and if I find it, 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 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. Labs, tests and quizzes are each 100 points, daily work and homework run from 10 to 75 points.

BOARD QUESTIONS: I will have questions written on my board nearly every day. You are expected to be working on the 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 50 point grade will be taken each quarter over whether you are working on these board questions at the bell or not.

HOMEWORK AND MAKE-UP WORK: A weekly schedule of daily activities and homework assignments is posted on my board, webpage and can be e-mailed to you upon request. You are expected to be aware of this schedule and are welcome to work ahead. Do not rely on me to remind you of when you have homework, need to bring your book to class or when you should 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 arranging for 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. I follow the school absence policy for tests.

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 and will not be tolerated. 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 in a quarter will receive an F for the grading period in this class.

TESTS/QUIZZES: At the end of a chapter, you will encounter two types of tests: repeatable chapter tests and non-repeatable chapter tests. To help distinguish between the two, we will call non-repeatable tests TESTS and the repeatable ones QUIZZES. Quizzes are repeatable two or three times. I will keep the most recent grade in the gradebook.

INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTABILITY: Of the top 15 skills employers want, at least nine of them can be practiced in conscientious group work. Since up to 80-90% of your grade will come from assignments done in groups, there is a slight possibility that one or two of you may accidentally get through the work without learning much. Hence the 150% rule:

THE 150% RULE:

No student who fails a test or quiz may score higher on any assignment than 150% of the quiz or test grade covering that assignment.

For example: A student gets a 100% on a lab and a 50% on the chapter quiz that covers the lab. The lab grade is reduced to 150% of the quiz grade $(150\%) \times 50 = 75\%$ 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 grades up to 75%.

THE 100% RULE:

If an assignment is turned in late, it cannot receive a grade higher than the test or quiz 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. If the student's test grade is 80%, then the student will receive 80% of the 10 points = 8 points.

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