

## Chemistry Plan for Success

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**INTRODUCTION:** This is YOUR plan for success in Chemistry. It describes what you can expect from this course and what is expected of you. This is a hands-on laboratory course that uses the scientific inquiry and evaluation of evidence to develop conceptual representations and models. Due to the use of this approach, it is imperative that you attend class on a daily basis. This course also provides a solid basis for your success in other high school and college science courses.

**Benefits of taking this course:**

- Helps you to develop and enhance critical reasoning skills
- Helps you to use common chemicals more safely
- Helps you better understand the world around you and become a better consumer and responsible citizen
- You get to participate in cool and exciting labs and demos

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Chemistry is a conceptual introduction to matter and the changes it undergoes.

**MATERIALS REQUIRED:**

**Text:** This course does **not** use a traditional textbook – your **binder** will be your main resource and reference. You will be expected to bring it with you every class!

**Other Resources:** Additional resources can be found in Google Classroom. Most of the slide presentations that will be used throughout the year as well as worksheets, reference links, etc. will be posted.

**Class Communications:**

All students are expected to correspond using their school email address and not a personal email. Other forms of correspondence are through our Google Classroom group. All MHS technology policies are to be respected and followed.

**Class supplies:**

**BYOD:** We will be using many online resources throughout the year - please plan to bring your own devices to class **every day**

**Binder:** Each student is required to have a **1-½ in. three-ring binder with 8-10 tabbed dividers** to organize materials and graded papers. It is imperative that you keep the binder organized as this is your main reference and should be treated as your textbook. Each unit should be tabbed separately and we will be exploring approximately 7-8 units this year. Read the separate **Binder guidelines** for more details on how to set up this binder. **This binder is to be used for CHEMISTRY only!**

**Calculator:** Each student is required to have and bring a scientific calculator to class at all times. Please note that graphing calculators may be used in class but **not** during tests or quizzes. During assessments, there is a class set of scientific calculators available.

**Safety goggles:** Each student will be required to wear safety goggles for ALL lab activities. You will all be given a personal pair to use in the classroom

**Other supplies:** black/blue pen (**work will NOT be accepted in any other color unless specified**), pencil, colored pencils, lined paper, eraser.

**\*\*Optional requested and appreciated classroom supplies:** additional expo markers, hand sanitizer, tissue boxes, paper towels. THESE DONATIONS are GREATLY APPRECIATED!!!

**STUDENT SUPPORT:**

**Homework:** Students are expected to write down the homework assigned in their agendas. The homework will be written on the board each day in class. It will also be posted in genesis/Google classroom

**Extra Help PERIOD:** Extra help day is **Wednesday (Chedid) from 2:20-3:20PM**. The other chemistry teachers are available on Tues or Thurs so there is always time for receiving extra help. This time is established for students that have an absence or need assistance in a particular concept. One of the factors for students' poor grades is usually due to not attending extra help when a class is missed or when needed. Students should come prepared with specific questions or assignments that they would like to work on. Students who do not have something to do during the extra help period will be asked to leave. Do NOT wait until the last minute to get help.

**ABSENCES:** One of the major factors that contribute to poor grades is student absence. A student should come to the extra help following his/her absence(s). It is the student's responsibility to find out what they missed. The student can pick up assignments missed during the absence from their class folder. Missed assignments must be completed during the school policy period. Missed labs must be made up within 10 days! If you do not show up for a scheduled makeup work and/or quiz you will receive a zero for that assignment.

**TARDIES:** Another factor that contributes to poor grades is being late to class. Students are expected to be prompt to each class. Any student that is not in his/her assigned seat when the bell rings is considered tardy unless he/she has a school issued pass. Late passes to class from your previous class' teacher should be infrequent and only due to finishing up a difficult test. Please use discretion and be fair to my class as I respect the following period class you must get to. A student who does not come into the classroom quietly and sit down will be considered to be a disruption to class instruction (see disruptions).

**DISRUPTIONS:** **Students who disrupt (any time instruction is stopped to correct student behavior or other students are distracted from the task at hand) classroom activities will not be tolerated.** Depending on the behavior, any combination of the following will occur: 1) an after-school detention slip will be issued and student will be expected to attend when assigned. 2) parents/guardians will be contacted regarding the behavior, 3) parents/guardians will be asked to attend a parent-teacher conference, and/or 4) a referral will be written.

**GENERAL RULES:** The following behavior will NOT be tolerated:

1. Showing disrespect to any person whether teacher, guest and/or other students.
2. The use of foul language of any kind.
3. The destruction of any school property. This includes any graffiti (on desk, in book, on walls, on other students' work, etc.)
4. Academic dishonesty – students should do their OWN work and not allow others to copy.

**SPECIFIC RULES:**

1. Come into class quietly and get into proper assigned seat.
2. **NO FOOD, DRINK, CANDY, GUM, MINTS, ETC. WILL EVER BE ALLOWED IN THE CLASSROOM/LABORATORY.** If a student **chooses** to ignore this rule in class, they will receive detention and/or office referral. This is OSHA regulation, school policy and not just my rule!
3. No use of electronic equipment will be allowed in class per school policy unless permission is given in advance. **Cell phones must be put away in your assigned location upon entering the classroom.**
4. Do not leave your seat without permission.
5. No one should leave the classroom once instruction starts (restroom, water etc.).
6. Each student is responsible for his/her work area.

**GRADING CRITERIA:**

**GENERAL:** Your grade in this class will depend on your performance.

**CLASS PREPARATION:** A student that does not have materials to complete classroom assignments will be considered unprepared for class (see student supplies)

**COMPLETING ASSIGNMENTS / TURNING THEM IN ON TIME:** The single most important thing that you can do is to complete assignments to the best of your ability and on time. All assignments are given in preparation for lab/test. Any graded assignment that is turned in after the assigned date/time will receive only partial credit. The only exception is a student that has an excused absence the day an assignment was to be turned in. This work will be accepted if the student has it with him/her when he/she returns to class (see absences).

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** You are required to do your own work on class activities because that is the only way that I will know whether or not you are learning. **If you attempt to communicate in any way during a quiz or test, then you will receive only partial credit.** If a student is observed using (copying) another's work then BOTH will lose credit!

**PERFORMANCE:** You will have many different kinds of assignments. **Since this is a hands-on approach, concepts missed due to absences will be difficult to make up due to class discussions and white boarding sessions which can not be done on an individual basis.** A total point system is used to keep track of your performance. The better you do on the graded assignments and assessments, the more points you will earn and the better your grade will be.

**Summative Assessments:** Tests will be given at the conclusion of each unit. There will also be quizzes periodically to give feedback on your understanding of the learning objectives prior to the summative assessments.

**REFLECTION JOURNAL GRADE:** You will be keeping a digital reflection journal throughout each semester. Each night you will be expected to add to your journal. Sometimes you will be given a specific prompt. We will occasionally give constructive feedback to let you know how you are doing and what you may do to improve it.

**Homework:** (worksheets, questions, readings and terms) are usually not graded but do have a major impact on your overall grade. It is imperative that homework is done on a consistent basis in order to be productive during class discussion and successful on assessments.

**Projects:** Projects are typically given once a unit. They may be research papers, posters, presentations, etc. Family vacations and school-related trips (ex: Science Olympiad, etc.) are not excuses for not getting your project finished in a timely fashion. If you will be out of school when the project is due, We expect the project to be handed in before you leave.

**Computer issues:** Computer problems at home or in another part of the school ARE NOT excuses for handing in your assignments late. Print out assignments before class (no excuse for being late to class) **MOST IMPORTANTLY: don't wait until the night before to finish major assignments!!!!**

**Extension of Due Dates:** If you think you will have trouble meeting a deadline for a major project or assignment, please meet with us AT LEAST 3 DAYS before the project is due to discuss the matter. No extensions will be considered after this.

**Lab Safety Contract:** the Student Safety Contract needs to be read by you and a parent/guardian. No student will be able to participate in any lab activities until this is done and the student has passed the safety quiz.

**WELCOME! LET'S ENJOY AN EXCITING YEAR OF LEARNING TOGETHER!**

1. **Keep your copy of the expectations in the reference section of your binder**
2. **Make sure that you AND your parent/guardian sign the acknowledgement forms posted in google classroom!**