

Mr. Sutherland's Chemistry Guidelines

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The general chemistry course offers a survey of topics including characteristics of substances, physical and chemical properties, writing formulas and naming compounds, the study of chemical reactions, writing equations, the study of solutions, atomic structure, bonding, the study of gases, solids, and liquids, acids and bases, and other selected topics consistent with the State and District requirements for the course. The emphasis of the course is on problem solving, laboratory investigation of concepts, and relating chemistry topics to daily experiences. Chemistry is a college preparatory course and requires a commitment on the part of the student to succeed. I expect all students to achieve mastery of the course material.

MATERIALS: Each student must arrive every day with their book, pen **and** pencil, note paper, and a scientific calculator. A separate binder will help organize your work, handouts, notes, and completed homework & assignments.

GRADING POLICY: The course grade will be determined by performance on chapter tests, quizzes and final exams (65%), Lab technique and lab reports, quizzes, projects, and homework assignments (35%) Late work will **NOT** be accepted except for excused absence or by prior arrangement due to extenuating circumstances. A standard breakdown of grades is used: 90-100 A 89-80 B 79-70 C 69-60 D 59 below Fail. Grades are your responsibility and can be accessed at mygradebook.com with your given password and name.

MAKEUP WORK: All makeup work must be completed promptly upon your return from an absence. It is the student's responsibility to find out what was missed in their absence. Students should schedule an appointment outside of class time to make up tests, quizzes, and labs. It is best not to miss chemistry unless absolutely necessary! Students who fall behind often have difficulty catching up.

CLASS RULES: Standard rules of classroom behavior include mutual respect of other students and instructor, active participation in all classroom activities, being prepared for class, being in seats and organized when the period begins, restroom trips for emergency only, being responsible for your own work at all times, do not give or receive help during tests and quizzes, remain in your seat unless instructed to work at your lab station, and to follow all lab safety procedures and instructions at all times. Due to safety considerations in chemistry laboratory, I reserve the right to remove students from the laboratory for behavioral or safety violations according to this general guideline. Violation of a major lab safety rule may result in immediate referral to the administration even for a first offense.

OFFICE HOURS AND EXTRA HELP: I highly encourage students to seek extra help in and outside of class. Whether this is a classmate, parent, tutor or the teacher; chemistry is a course where extra help is often needed. Do not wait until the last minute to seek help. Topics will build on each other so delaying in seeking help is detrimental. I am available either prior to school or after school. I am more than willing to help you. However, you should let me know you are coming so that I am available. Also, you should be prepared to receive help by bringing all of your materials. Creating a regular study group is also a good idea. Often your peers are excellent resources in studying for tests and doing homework.

Let's have a good year and Good Luck