

**MSTC CHEMISTRY 1 LIFELINE**

Welcome to Chemistry. You are about to start a study of one of the most difficult, yet most interesting areas of science – that of chemistry. Because of the nature of the subject, it will be imperative that you spend some time on chemistry each day. You might survive without an intimate relationship with the material, but you won't learn much.

Chemistry is a "building block" science; each step is based upon the previous one. It is crucial for your success to keep up with the material as it is being presented. Getting behind can accumulate and balloon into serious discrepancies in your understanding of the material down the road.

Learning good problem solving skills is a huge key to being successful in an Advanced Chemistry class. All problems can be solved with basic algebra skills, but my goal is to push you outside your comfort zone of basic plug and chug problems. This course will often feel like another math class, but it simply takes the math you learn or have learned and applies it to everyday situations.

This is NOT an easy class. I have very high expectations of you and I work hard to continuously challenge you. I am however, happy to help you be as successful as you want to be. If you feel yourself becoming the least bit overwhelmed don't hesitate to seek me out for additional help. **I am available every afternoon after school with the exception of Tuesdays.** I also have the material available online at the website listed above (handouts, homework, lab write-ups, and presentations are available online). I am available via email if you hit a snag with a homework assignment and need some advice on how to proceed.

**SUPPLIES NEEDED**

There are certain items that I **REQUIRE** of you for this class. These are items that we will use in class often and you are expected to obtain them within the first week.

1. Signed Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)
2. Pencils (try mechanical, they are more reliable)
3. Some method of organizing notes and returned papers.
4. You must have a scientific calculator that is able to perform scientific functions. Consider getting some extra batteries too.
5. There is a required \$5.00 lab fee per student; if you happen to have more than one science course you only pay the fee once.
6. Professional Student Lab Notebook (with at least 100 pages, carbon or carbonless duplicating pages)

**GRADES WILL BE BASED ON...**

Final grades are based on the **weighted averages** of 5 categories. The percentage breakdown and categories that final grades are based on are...

**HOMEWORK (15%)**

Homework is very important in chemistry – but it is primarily designed to prepare you for the exams. I expect everyone to try each problem assigned. We will discuss any questions you have in class. **You will receive a grade of satisfactory (✓) or unsatisfactory (✓-) on each assignment, and will have the opportunity to redo each (✓-) assignment to receive a grade of satisfactory.** Keep in mind, we could have a quiz on any assignment the next day.

**LABS/ACTIVITIES (20%)**

There will be frequent labs, especially second semester. All labs will be accomplished with a small group of classmates. In order to earn credit for the lab, every member of the group must participate in all parts of the lab. **For safety reasons there will be a zero tolerance policy on all safety rules.** I reserve the right to remove anyone from the lab that I feel is working in an unsafe manner.

**DAILY (15%)**

The daily grade will be a composite of two different activities, bellringer activities and classwork.

**Bellringer:** we will start every block with a short activity in which you answer a thought provoking problem or two or a question about the previous block's material.

**Classwork:** this segment will come from problems that might be posed to review material as the material is being presented. This will provide me with the opportunity to come around and help groups as they attempt to solve them. These problems are not optional.

**QUIZZES (10%)**

One means of assessing how well you are learning the material is to give a quiz. They are for the most part pop quizzes and will cover only the material recently learned. If you are doing your own homework and reviewing new material you should be fine.

We will have 1 quiz every week almost guaranteed. Therefore, you must keep up with your homework and review your material often.

**TESTS (40%)**

There will be unit exams on average once per 6 weeks. Tests will be announced at least a week ahead of time and will occur after a couple of chapters worth of material has been presented.

*I have read this document & understand all info presented:* \_\_\_\_\_

*(student signature)*

**HOMEWORK BUDDY SYSTEM**

Within the first couple of weeks of school, you will choose a Homework Buddy from among your classmates. You and your homework buddies are in partnership. You are responsible to each other for making your journey through Chemistry as successful as possible. At the very least you should pick up extra materials handed out anytime your homework buddies are absent. This will help them to transition back into the classroom upon their return. You might also consider working together during practice time, studying together for tests, and working with each other on projects or labs. Consider exchanging phone numbers and email addresses in order to stay in communication with each other.

Working together with a student or a small group of students can be extremely beneficial in the study of a complex subject as Chemistry.

**STUDENT WORK POLICY**

Any work turned in should be original and neat. You will show your logic and reasoning when submitting answers to math problems. In other words, **if you don't show your work, you will not receive credit.** You will get an automatic unsatisfactory for that assignment.

**LATE WORK**

Failure to submit work on time is perhaps the single worst way to damage your grade. Any assignment not submitted by the end of the scheduled block is considered late work.

Dunbar's late work policy is upheld in this class. It states that students have until the end of each unit to turn in their late assignments, but work considered late will at most receive a 68%. However, the late assignment can be attached to a Homework Postponement Pass, for full credit, if the conditions on the Postponement Pass are met.

You will have 3 Homework Passes per semester and will be responsible for keeping track of your own passes. When you need to turn in an assignment late you must attach a completed Homework Pass to the assignment and place it in the tray to receive full credit, otherwise it will receive the 68% maximum as per Dunbar's policy.

**MAKE-UP WORK**

Make-up work due to an excused absence is due after one class period upon the students return. (ie. You are absent on Monday. You return on Wednesday and get the assignment. The assignment is due on Friday.)

When a student knows about a quiz or exam before an absence, he/she should be prepared to take the quiz/ exam upon returning to school.

You are responsible for getting the missed assignment from the teacher web page or a classmate. Computers with internet access are available in the library before or after school.

If you miss a test or lab, it must be made up after school or by appointment within the week of the absence. The time must be scheduled with me.

**CLASSROOM POLICIES**

It is my responsibility as a teacher to maintain an environment in my classroom that will be conducive to learning. Anything that detracts from that learning environment or prevents others from learning is considered an unacceptable behavior and will be strongly discouraged.

It is my philosophy that one cannot learn in an atmosphere of confusion. I expect appropriate classroom behavior and strict adherence to school rules. I view my students as mature, young adults who want to be treated with respect and thus I expect the same from them. Appropriate classroom behavior is expected at all times.

Ringling phones, text messaging, and phone photo-graphy are disruptive in an instructional environment. Therefore, **the use of cell phones or any device that acts like a cell phone is prohibited during the school day.**

You are expected to...

1. attend class regularly, arrive on time, and have needed materials.
2. turn homework in on time and complete
3. do your absolute best to meet the requirements of this course.
4. respect and cooperate with the teacher and other students at all times.
5. respect the rights of others.
6. complete classroom work or activities without creating disorder or invading the rights of others.
7. earn grades fairly without cheating or plagiarism.
8. be responsible for your own conduct.
9. respect personal and school property.

Consequences for violating these rules: 1st - Warning; 2nd - Stay after class for conference; 3rd - Parent phone call; 4th - Referral to Office.

**SCHEDULE**

	A Day	B Day
1 <sup>st</sup> Block (8:25-10:00)	Plan	MSTC Chem 2
2 <sup>nd</sup> Block (10:05-11:35)	Adv Chem	MSTC Chem 1
3 <sup>rd</sup> Block (11:40-1:10)	MSTC Chem 1	Adv Chem
4 <sup>th</sup> Block (1:45-3:15)	MSTC Chem 3	Plan

\*Notes: All classes above take place in Rm. 420.  
All science classes have last lunch.

I have read this document & understand all info presented: \_\_\_\_\_  
(parent signature)