

## **ADVANCED CHEMISTRY 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 is NOT an easy class. I have very high expectations of you and I work hard to constantly challenge you. I am however, happy to help you be as successful as you want to be. I am available essentially every morning before school, and 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 also 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, much easier on the pencil sharpener)
3. Some method of organizing notes and returned papers. A binder is appropriate, but it will need to be at least 1 ½" thick.
4. You must have a scientific calculator that is able to perform scientific functions (a \$9.00 calculator from WalMart will work just as well as a \$200.00 graphing calculator). Consider getting some extra batteries too, it is very difficult working some of the problems we will be working without a reliable calculator.

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.

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

Final grades are based on the weighted averages of 4 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 (15%)**

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 (20%)**

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

The classwork segment will come from problems that posed to review material as the material is being presented. Typically these problems will be solved as pairs working together, and will provide me with the opportunity to come around and help groups as they attempt to solve them.

#### **TESTS & QUIZZES (50%)**

There will be unit exams on average once per 6 weeks. There will be several quizzes also to make sure that you are keeping up with the problem solving portion of the class. 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.

### **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**

You will be expected to turn in assignments on time. Late work will be accepted only with a Homework Pass. 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 Homework Pass to the assignment and place it in the tray.

If you happen to miss an exam, you will be expected to schedule a time mutually convenient for both of us. This appointment of the exam should be in a timely fashion. If you cannot for whatever reason keep your appointment, you may reschedule one time. After that I will record a zero for that exam.

### **CLASS TIME**

Class time is very important. When I enter the room from the hall, I expect you to be prepared for class to begin. Please have pencils sharpened, books out, and homework ready, and be mentally prepared at that time.

If you miss a class lecture due to absence, you are expected to obtain a blank copy of the notes from your Homework Buddy, and to complete them on your own time either using the website or your Homework Buddy(ies) notes. I am available after school or before school to discuss any material you don't understand. It is your responsibility to have a keep complete set of class notes.

### **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.

Ringing phones, text messaging, and phone photography 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 as a student have some responsibilities to help maintain the learning environment in the classroom.

You are expected to...

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

### **SWANGO POINTS**

Each class as a whole starts with 3 Swango Points each semester. The points belong to everyone in the class as a collective.

Any type of major disruption to the class as a whole involving several students, will cost the class a Swango Point.

Your goal as a class should be to maintain at least one of these Swango Points until the end of the semester. Therefore, you will need to police each other to maintain at least one of these points.

If the class has at least one of these points remaining at the end of the semester, I will drop your most damaging test grade.

I'm excited about this year ahead of us and look forward to getting to know each of you.

Mr. Swango