

## Chemistry Course Outline and Student Expectations

Morris Central School

2024-25 Academic Year

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### Instructional Philosophy

Chemistry is a demanding course that is meant to impart not only the fundamental concepts and facts of chemistry, but also the excitement and rewards of making discoveries. Historical perspectives will be addressed as well as some of the more recent findings and their implications. We will be using chemistry to answer the question: "how do we describe the physical world around us?" This is a course you have chosen to take. It will be fun and challenging and you will be expected to work hard.

### Necessary Daily Course Materials

3-ring binder, teacher provided note packets, paper, pencils, pens, Prentice Hall "Orange" Review Book, and daily assignments. See website for more information.

### Books/Publications

**Prentice Hall "Chemistry"**: This is to be kept free of any writing or damage. You will be given a textbook to leave at home until the end of the year and you will have an additional book available in school should you need it.

**Prentice Hall Brief Review Chemistry (the "Orange Book")**: This part of your daily carry. It needs to be brought to class everyday!

**School Publications** : You also will be responsible for other publications assigned during the course of the academic year.

### Course Major Themes/Topics

The following topics will be covered in the Regents Chemistry course this year. Topics will be taught through lecture, demonstration and various instructional methods. The topics will also be reinforced through lab experiences.

- Physical Behavior and Matter
- Atomic Structure
- Nuclear Chemistry
- Periodic Table
- Bonding
- Mathematics of Chemistry
- Kinetics and Equilibrium
- Acids, Bases and Salts
- Oxidation and Reduction
- Properties of Solutions
- Organic Chemistry
- Formulas and Equations

We will not discuss the topics in the order they are presented in the review book.

### Evaluation Scheme -- Chemistry

**\*\* I grade based on a total point scale based on the current BOE's policy of weighting 60% (test/quiz and labs) and 40% (classwork, attendance, participation, homework)**

**1. Quizzes and Tests (tests average 80 points each, quizzes average 20 points each)**-- Tests will usually count as four quiz grades within this scheme. Any changes to this scheme will be announced by your instructor. Unannounced quizzes based on work during the preceding class/lab periods may occur at any time. **Expect to have at least one quiz or test a week.**

**2. Homework assignments -- (usually count as 20 points each)** You will be responsible to keep a homework calendar. At the end of each month I will collect the calendar and calculate your homework average. Completion of your homework is not an option. It is essential to doing well in this course. Parents will be asked to sign the calendar after the grading is complete. **Expect to have homework every night. (Late assignments will garner 1/2 the points awarded for the homework, homework not completed will not receive points at all.)**

**3. Lab -- (at least 25 points each)** Labs will be evaluated and this score will be calculated with the class average, **as part of your test average** at the close of the marking period since I use the labs as a form of summative assessment (unless otherwise stated). More will be stated about lab reports and

evaluation of the laboratory during the year. Laboratory information may also be evaluated in the homework or test/quiz categories at the discretion of the instructor.

**\*\* All labs or lab activities we do must be completed successfully (85% and above) in order for the student to take the Regents examination.**

**4. Class Participation and Attendance—(10 points a day counts as class work)** This will be checked on a daily basis. If you are present and are an active participant in your own learning you will earn the full points for that day. **Frequent absences or tardiness will affect this grade.**

\*\* In addition, research papers, projects, or oral reports, may be assigned at any time at the instructor's discretion. The scoring of these activities for a grade will be announced at the times these are given. The instructor reserves the right to give different quizzes/tests, assignments, or lab reports to make up for absences.

Changes or modifications in the evaluation policies previously listed may be made any time at the instructor's discretion.

#### **YOUR Expectations:**

1. **You** are responsible for getting the notes and the assignments for any time you miss class or lab due to absence(s). Get these materials from me or other students, if not they are not scanned and included on Google Classroom. Please do not ask me what was for homework. ***IT IS POSTED ON GOOGLE CLASSROOM!*** And if you are absent, you are responsible for the homework, projects etc. that were assigned the day **BEFORE you were absent AND the day you were absent.**

2. **I reserve the right to inspect your notebooks at any time for evaluation.** I may grade some or all of the notebooks at any time. I EXPECT YOU TO MAINTAIN SEPARATE A NOTEBOOK THAT I CAN COLLECT AT ANY TIME.

3. **I expect all students to participate in all laboratory activities.** If you miss a laboratory session, **YOU** are responsible to schedule a time to make up the work. You must do the lab time in order for the lab to count as lab minutes.

4. If you know you are going to be out of school for an extended period, please arrange with me ***at least two weeks in advance*** to obtain the work you will be missing.

5. Under no circumstances will late assignments be given full credit unless your **special** circumstances are discussed with me before the assignment is due.

6. **Safety Protocols** Students are expected to follow the safety guidelines covered during the first week of school. There is a zero tolerance policy for unsafe practices during laboratory activities.

7. For other class policies, refer to your student handbook.

#### **YOUR Learning Expectations:**

1. **You will be *earning your grades in this class, I do not give grades.***

2. Regular, and active class participation is required. For example: just logging in to Google Classroom is not enough.

3. I expect you to study **at least 10 minutes in addition to** the time it takes to complete homework on a daily basis.

4. Come to class prepared to learn. **You are responsible for your own learning.**

5. Complete ALL assignments to the best of your ability.

6. Do NOT fall behind in your work. **It is your responsibility to stay caught up.**

7. Reading assignments are **NOT** optional.

8. **Expect quizzes every week.** You will also complete unit exams.

**9. Secure your phone, earbuds or other devices in your locker or backpack during class or lab, unless otherwise directed. If I have to warn you more than once, I reserve the right to take your device(s) away for the period. If this becomes a habit, I will ask the administration to intervene.**

10. Follow school and lab safety rules and policies.

**11. Have fun! This is a really interesting course. You will be challenged and grow as a scientist.**

Aftering reading the bove, and having all questions answered, please sign below.

I understand the **Chemistry Course Outline and Expectations.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent's Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**