**Welcome to Honors Chemistry!**

**Teacher: Megan Vandersee**

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**Classroom Expectations:**

1. Be an **active learner**:
   1. Pay attention, take notes, ask questions, participate, discuss, debate, think, etc.
2. Be a **responsible** student.
   1. Bring your supplies to class each day.
   2. Be an honest worker
3. Do the things **respectful** people do.
   1. Be in your seat ready to work when the bell rings
   2. Listen while others are speaking.
   3. Keep cell phones and music devices put away.
   4. Keep trips that take you out of class to a minimum.
   5. Do not bring food or drink other than water to a chemistry class.
4. **It’s OK to think, share ideas, and even to be wrong sometimes.**

**Materials:**

1. Notebook/Binder – dedicated only to chemistry
2. Pen/pencil
3. Calculator – a non-graphing calculator for tests
4. Textbook – *Chemistry the Central Science*, 2015, by Brown, LeMay and Bursten.
5. Personal Goggles are for sale in the AV Room for $5.00. There is a classroom set available too.

**Grading:**

Assessments 65%  
Labs 25%

Homework 10%

**\*\***The cumulative semester final is 20% of the semester grade\*\*

**Course Expectations:**

* You will find that **actively** reading your book on a regular basis will greatly facilitate your understanding of chemistry. Have a pencil, paper, calculator, etc. handy as you are reading your textbook.
* **Homework is due by the time class begins on the due date.** Assignments turned in late, unless due to absence, will receive no more than half credit.
* **If you are absent, you have 2 days to make up any assignments/tests and 5 days to make up a lab.** Please make sure to check the board, homework bin, and speak with the teacher to see what you may have missed.
* Individual extra credit projects will not be given. Extra Credit is not a common occurrence.
* **Extra assistance is available before school, 8th hour, and after school.**
* Teacher webpage includes unit objectives, activity/assignment information, assignment calendar, downloadable worksheets, links to extra assistance, etc.
* **Remind 101:** Optional one-way text messaging system to increase communication between parents, students and myself. To sign up, text the message **@msvhonchem** to **81010**.

Advice from former students!

*Here’s what real previous students of ours wanted to tell you about learning and doing well in chemistry*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Participate and ask questions in classroom discussions because that's when most of my understanding happened. | Pay close attention and keep all the worksheets that are given out! :) | | At first the class might seem confusing but as it goes on things will clear up and you will form a rhythm within the class. |
| Work together in class! | Work at tables with everybody in your class at some point, and actually work collaboratively with them as opposed to sitting next to them and working separately | | Work hard, be dedicated and continue to want to learn about chemistry because it is a fun yet interesting class. |
| I would tell them even if it seems confusing at first, putting in the extra time, effort and sticking it out will really make a difference. | Just because you are not taught how to do it at first, doesn't mean that you shouldn't try to solve it with what you already know. | | Don't give up / get frustrated when you can't get something the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or even 4th time. You'll get it. |
| Do your homework. Don't wait until he/she goes over it in class unless you actually understand it. There is no point to copy answers to something you don't understand. Also ask questions if you don't understand something. | Pay attention to questions your fellow students have as well, because sometimes other students asked questions or explained stuff that helped me understand things better. | | Always try your hardest on the hw. Don’t read to study -- actually do problems. ALWAYS go in for extra help-- even if you feel like you do it too much. |
| Keep your binder organized | ChemisTRY | | Make sure to take advantage of eighth period. [They are] very helpful and willing to explain things if you take the initiative |
| Don't sleep during molar mass unit | Always keep a periodic table and a calculator with you | Learn molar masses of frequently used elements. It saves a lot of time. | |