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We have tons of things to learn about! Below are “the essentials” of what you need to know to be successful in this class:

1. The PSD handbook will be followed and all district and GHS rules apply.
2. Have your “Seat in a Seat” and be working when the tardy bell rings.
3. The GHS 20-minute rule applies (no restroom breaks 20 min. before or after the bell).
4. Bring all materials with you to class each day. You are responsible for the following items and may receive a detention if you do not have them with you:

pen / pencil
graph paper
calculator

3- ring binder with loose leaf paper
handouts (in binder)
lab notebook

Attendance - It is your responsibility to find out what you missed while absent, and arrange to make up the work missed. This includes notes, homework, tests, in-class activities, or whatever else was missed. (The district two-day make up window applies.) If you fail to make up a missed exams or assignments in a timely manner, you will earn a zero. **Students who are going to be out of class for a school-sponsored activity should see me PRIOR to missing class to turn in work due on the day of the absence and to arrange make-up work.**

Tardiness - Coming to class late is disruptive and disrespectful. In accordance with school policy, you will receive one hour every time your “seat is not in a seat” when the tardy bell rings.

Cheating and Plagiarism - Don't do it! Fair warning - you will **earn a zero**. The internet can be both friend and foe. Large amounts of information are at your fingertips. You will be encouraged, and sometimes required, to use the internet in class, at the media center, library, or at home. It is critical to remember that ANY use of information from the internet must be documented since plagiarism is not accepted. (See accompanying document.)

Late Assignments – 1 day late- ½ credit. 2nd day late- no credit. **No exceptions**. Partial credit is better than no credit! **Technology failure is not an excuse for late work.**

Textbook:

Modern Chemistry, 5th edition, Holt, Rinehart, and Winston. Prentice Hall
Your textbook may be left at home for reading and homework assignments.

Grading - The *grading scale* is the modified ten-point Pascagoula School District grading scale. Grades will be available online by 5pm on Friday of every week so that you and your parent/guardians know where you stand.

Grading & Assignment weights:

Tests	40%
Classwork/Homework:	20%
Quizzes/Labs/Lab Reports	20%
Midterms/Exam	20%

Laboratory Work:

Chemistry is a laboratory-based science, thus experiments are a very important component of this course. Most of the labs will be one- or two-day assignments. However, at least once per quarter, you will be asked to write a formal lab report, adhering to the GHS Scientific Paper Guidelines (to be provided), or complete a multi-unit problem-based exercise. Labs will be graded on a sliding point basis with a rubric and are usually due (unless otherwise stated) the day after the completion of the lab. As stated previously, late lab work will receive a deduction of 50% per day, and no credit will be given the second day late.

Homework - Your homework will involve studying the information in your notes and handouts, as well as completing written assignments. Expect homework 3(-ish) nights per week. Homework is essential for understanding of the material and failure to do homework will significantly lower your grade! Homework is due BEFORE the tardy bell. Tardy bell=late homework.

Quizzes – We may have some unannounced quizzes, but normally you will know in advance when you'll be assessed.

Tests- Reading assignments, homework, lectures, online video clips/modules, in-class discussions and activities are all fair game (i.e. everything we do to prepare). **If you are absent the day of the test review you will still be expected to take the exam with the rest of the class.** Major tests will always be announced several days in advance. Since chemistry is a course that builds upon itself, **tests are cumulative.**

Binders- First: Keep everything. We will have lots of worksheets, photocopies, etc. Second: Good note-taking skills are essential! If I say it's important—write it down.

Quality of Work - All assignments will be evaluated on completeness, neatness, correctness, and adherence to instructions. Do not forget how to use the English language just because this is not an English class! Do your best every time.

What if I get behind?

Get a study buddy! You are not alone in this class! Find someone who you work well with who can help you. Two heads are better than one and getting help from someone else allows the both of you to understand the topic better. We will spend a lot of time with our family groups in this class. Get to know them and bond with them. (Get it? "Bond" with them!?!)

Raise your hand in class and ask questions when necessary.

Don't panic! Check out other resources! The internet is a great tool that can be used to help you learn if you find a helpful website. YouTube is also a great resource. Simply type in whatever the topic is into a youtube search to find different tutorials on the topic. Sometimes a different perspective or hearing something in a different way is all it takes.

Do you tutor?

I will absolutely take time to help you before or after school, IF you are using class time effectively. I will not use personal time to recover lost class time because you were having a bad day and didn't feel like participating or were disruptive. So, I tutor by appointment only.

Is it worth it?

Chemistry is a difficult subject---but conquering chemistry is a sweeeeeet feeling. When you leave this class, you will be a better thinker, problem-solver, calculator, reader, listener, speaker...and you'll know some chemistry, too. It is all of these skills together that will combine to give you the power to create the future you want to have.

Dear Parent, Guardian, or Family Member,

Please sign and return after reviewing my classroom policies. If you have any questions, please write them here, or call, e-mail, or send a note. Also, please write the phone number and/or email address that provides the best method of contacting you:

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I have read and understand the rules and expectations for my child while he/she is in Dr. Ross' class.

Signature: _____