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General Chemistry Syllabus

Students and Parents: During this coming year your student will be introduced to the fascinating world of Chemistry. Through hands on laboratory exercises, practice problems, lectures, discussions, projects, and journal writing, your student will be exposed to the principles of chemistry. We hope that your student will enjoy a successful year of chemistry. **Success will depend on your student's effort and attitude, as well as encouragement from you. Please read over the following expectations for your student's chemistry class.**

Needed Supplies: Your chemistry student will need daily supplies of pen/pencil, paper and textbook. In addition, he or she will need a hard-bound note book. This notebook will be used for journal writing as well as laboratory note-taking. This year, we also have an online edition of the textbook, so if your student has access to the internet, he or she need not check out a personal copy. There will be books for classroom use.

Attendance: Demonstrations and Lab Exercises are difficult if not impossible at times to make up, so being present and actively participating in class each day is crucial. Attendance letters are sent home at 5, 9 and 12 absences. All make up work will be due by the number of days the student was absent. Students may not make up work from unexcused absences. Twelve absences in a semester will result in loss of credit, subject to appeal.

Tardiness results in incomplete information. After a student is tardy three times, I will notify the parents. After 5 tardies, the school administration will be involved.

Electronic device policy: Cell phones may not be used in class. Music players (i-pods, MP3 players, etc) may be permitted if the student is working on their own, and at the discretion of the teacher.

Topics to be covered:

	1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
Chapter	1. Matter and change	11. Gases
	2. Measurements and calculations	12. Solutions.
	3. Atom structure	13. Acids and bases
	4. Electron configuration	17. Thermochemistry
	5. The periodic law	18. Equilibrium
	6. Chemical bonding	19. RedOx reactions
	7. Chemical formulas and compounds	20. Electrochemistry
	8. Equations and reactions	21. Nuclear chemistry
	9. The mole	
	10. Stoichiometry	
	We may not complete chapters 9 and 10 in the fall semester.	

Progress Reports: River Ridge High School is on the Skyward family Access System. This system allows you to check your son/daughters grades on line any time. You may contact your house office to get your log on and password to check grades and attendance from anywhere you can get the internet. You can access the Skyward System from the NTPS homepage by clicking on the link called 'family access'. If you would like progress reports for this class, have your student pick them up in the house office and bring them to me each Wednesday.

Grading: LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR FULL CREDIT. All work must be completed by the due date to receive full credit. If student is excused absent on the due date; work is due the day they get back. If they are absent on the day of assignment, they have the same number of days to complete the assignment that they were absent.

Assignments missed by **UNEXCUSED ABSENCE**, or due dates missed due to **UNEXCUSED ABSENCE** will receive reduced credit depending on the extent of the lateness.

Grade Scale

A = above 92.5	B = 82.5-87.5	C =72.5-77.5	D+ = 67.5-70
A- = 90 - 92.5	B- = 80-82.5	C- =70-72.5	F= 62.49 and below
B+ = 87.5-90	C+ = 77.5-80	D=62.5-67.5	

Lab Work and Journal Writing: Along with the daily work and tests, Chemistry is also a lab class. Students will have a lab assignment at least once per unit. Many units will have multiple labs. Each lab assignment comes with a formal lab report. Typically labs are performed later in the week, and students are given the weekend to complete the lab report. The lab reports are composed of 5 areas: 1) Title & purpose, 2) Materials & procedures, 3) Data, 4) Analysis, and finally 5) Conclusion. Each part of the lab is worth 5 points, except for the analysis is worth 10 points, for a total of 30 points.

Homework: Students will have frequent homework. I try to avoid homework on Fridays, since they have the lab report to finish, but on most other days, they will have some homework. I usually have some class time to start the homework assignment to answer some questions before they go home. Some very motivated students do finish in class. *Please refer to the Skyward System to monitor missing homework assignments.*

I will be sending out a detailed explanation of how the grades are assigned. It is based on the concept that the important grades are the ones that measure the final outcome of assignments. It is less important how the individual students arrive at the understanding.