

August 2011

Dear Chemistry Student and Parents,

Welcome to the wonderful world of Chemistry at Mesa Ridge High School. I hope that this class will contribute to your education and seem worthwhile and challenging. A great deal of preparation has gone into this course to make it as comprehensive and interesting as possible! To begin, please review a list of the **required items** for the course below:

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| 1. Composition Book (College ruled preferable) | 3. USB Jump Drive Storage Device (at least 2 GB) |
| 2. Scientific Calculator (Note: <u>Does not</u> need graphing capabilities) | 4. Chemistry Lab Fee - \$5 (Covers all disposable lab materials) |

I am especially excited for the new approach to teaching that we (the Chemistry Teachers) are going to utilize this year. This class will look and feel different from the traditional lecture class that you are used to in that we will be utilizing something called "Vodcasting". You will be responsible for the lecture material *outside of class* time by viewing digital vodcasts lectures accessed through the Internet (options for students without internet access are available – please inform me). This will allow us to focus class time on learning the material more thoroughly and give me more time to help you individually! The first unit of material will be provided to the students. Please note that students will be responsible for printing subsequent unit packets (available online) or may purchase a printed packet from the instructor. All *required* worksheets, lab sheets and resources are contained in the packets.

It is important to note that the strength of this class and the benefits that you receive depend on *you*. To achieve in this lab-oriented class, one needs to be an *active participant*. Therefore, **attendance** is of *special importance*. This means that for any activities missed during scheduled class time, *it is the responsibility of the student* to make up a similar activity, such as completing labs or working on material missed in the regular class.

As a chemistry student, you should expect to have some type of work **almost every night**, whether it be completing laboratory reports, doing assignments, studying your text or viewing a Vodcast.

To receive a passing grade, the following is expected:

- Complete *all class assignments and activities* by the **assigned due date**
- Complete *all laboratory experiments and required report* by the **assigned due date**. If a lab is missed, it is necessary for you to make-up the lab by setting up an appointment with the teacher, as well as, obtains assistance from another chemistry student who has already completed the lab. You will have two school days to do an experiment because of an absence.
- Study for and successfully complete quizzes and unit tests. You will have one week to make-up a test due to an absence.
- **Attend class regularly**. Attendance is necessary for success in learning chemistry.

Each student's grade will be based on the following categories and percentages:

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|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| - Unit Objectives (30%) | - Tests/Quizzes/Lab Practicals (50%) |
| - Participation (10%) | - Final Exam (10%) |

During the year, you will learn not only chemistry, but also necessary study habits and problem solving skills. These skills will enhance your performance in your other classes as well. Please do your part to contribute to the class. I'm eager to share the exciting and intriguing subject of chemistry with you this year!! If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me either by the phone number or email listed below. **Please visit the link below to submit your digital signature verifying the receipt and understanding of the contents within this letter.**

Sincerely,

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<http://tiny.cc/crittendenletter>