

Essentials of Chemistry

Freeport High School

Mr. McGrady; 724-295-5143 (ext 1558); mcgrady@freeport.k12.pa.us

Textbooks: Physical Science and Modern Chemistry

REMIND App: To receive text reminders from Mr. McGrady, see the "remind" instruction sheet.

Schoology: Many of your course materials (notes, worksheets, labs) are on Schoology. If you miss school (or misplace a paper) please go to Schoology to get a copy of what you need. Your access code will be provided in your particular class. Parent access codes can be made available upon request.

Please be sure to take home the "Parent Signature Sheet", get it signed, and return it to me for 10 points.

Course Description: This course serves as an introduction to the basic concepts of Chemistry. It is a required, semester-long course for freshmen. Topics covered are listed below. Students who successfully complete this course will be better prepared for the year-long Chemistry course which is offered in their junior and senior years.

Topics Covered:

1. Matter (2.5-3 weeks)
2. Measurement; Unit Conversion; Density (2.5-3 weeks)
3. Theory and Structure of the Atom (2 weeks)
4. Electron Configuration (2 weeks)
5. Stoichiometry (1.5-2 weeks)
6. Naming/Formula Writing of Compounds (2.5 weeks)
7. Phases of Matter/Gas Laws (2.5 weeks)
8. Periodic Law (1 week)
9. Chemistry and the Environment (1 week)

Requirements and Tips:

1. Please be on time, be attentive, and be prepared to work.
2. Do your work. This means do your own work. Copying someone else's work...whether it's on a test or on homework...is CHEATING. Cheating will not be tolerated & a grade of zero will be given.
3. Keep track of your assignments...If you are absent, you are responsible to find out what you missed and get caught up.
4. Take care of this room. CLEAN UP AFTER LABS - This is a lab requirement. Penalties will be assessed to your lab if lab area is not cleaned properly.
5. Please watch your language. I will not tolerate ANY kind of profanity or abusive language. I don't use that type of language, nor do I expect you to use it!
6. Hall Pass: It is a privilege, not a right. Do not abuse it. Only used when needed; only one person at a time. ASK FIRST (unless it is an absolute emergency). Sign out and take the wooden "Room 58" Hall Pass with you. (there is a water fountain just outside the room)
7. **Notebooks:** You will need to keep a notebook for the semester - preferably a 3 ring binder. Your notebook will contain notes, homework, labs, & reference sheets. Part of my job is to teach you how to be organized and how to take notes, but at the same time, you need to do what works best for you.

8. Labs: A variety of labs/projects will be done this year. Each student will sign and return to me a "Lab Safety Contract" by which you must abide. Please work with extreme caution in the lab!
9. Grading: No one is entitled to an "A" in this course. An "A" is earned by you. Your grade will be made up of test/quiz scores, homework points, labs, & possibly extra credit.
10. Tutoring: If you need extra help, please come and see me. I am usually here by 7:00 AM each day - earlier if you wish. After school times can be set up also. My planning period is period 5-9 if you need help then.
11. Calculators: You will need a calculator for this class...but do not use them for basic calculations. A limited number are available to borrow.
12. PHONES/DEVICES: Please keep your personal electronic devices away unless given SPECIFIC permission by the teacher.
13. Details for handing in work: Assignments are sometimes collected at the end of a period if sufficient time is given; they are sometimes collected the next day; or often, they will not be collected until some point near the end of a week or the end of a chapter. Assignments are not always graded for correctness, but instead for completion. This is because I often make a partial answer key available for students to check their own progress and then have them ask questions as needed. Regardless of an assignment being graded for correctness or completion, it is expected that they be completed and handed in on the due date. Late deductions will apply for many assignments, but some assignments will not be accepted late -except in cases of excused absences.
14. There will be no eating or drinking in the Lab area. Eating or drinking at your desk is usually OK, but you must clean up and throw away any trash. Always wash your hands after being in the lab area.
15. Student Handbook: All other rules and policies mentioned in the Student Handbook also apply to Room 58.

Teenage years are full of fun times and difficult times. I realize you will have a lot of things going on and will have many critical decisions to make...life can be overwhelming. If you ever have the need to talk with someone or need advice, I am willing to help. I am not just here to teach you chemistry or math or physics, but I am also here to help you with the tough stuff.

"Doing what is right is not always popular, and doing what is popular is not always right."

*"We learn by using what we already know as a bridge over which we pass to the unknown."
-A.W. Tozer*

Watch your thoughts...for they become your words.

Watch your words...for they become your actions.

Watch your actions...for they become your habits.

Watch your habits...for they become your character.

Watch your character...for it becomes your destiny.

Parent Signature Sheet

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

The school year is under way & your son or daughter is now taking a semester course in the Essentials of Chemistry. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome them to my class and to give you a chance to provide contact information to me in the event I may need to get in touch with you.

Please review the attached SYLLABUS (including Course Description, Topics, and Requirements and Tips) for this course. Once you have done that, please sign - and have your son or daughter sign - below. This is simply to acknowledge that your child has brought this home for you to review.

Please return the bottom portion to me and retain this top portion for your records. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me using the info below.

Thanks!

Chris McGrady
AP Statistics, Probability & Statistics, Math Methods & Models, Essentials of Chemistry
Freeport Senior High School
724-295-5143 ext 558
mcgrady@freeport.k12.pa.us

Please keep the above portion for your records:

Please sign, detach, and return the portion below:

I have read the Essentials of Chemistry Course Description, Topics, and Requirements, and I understand these policies. If I have any further questions or concerns, I will contact Mr. McGrady.

Student name (printed): _____

Student signature: _____

Parent name (printed): _____

Parent signature: _____

Mr. McGrady can contact me using the phone or email given below. [please **check** your preferred method of communication]:

Email: _____

Phone: _____