

Regents Chemistry – Mr. Arbuiso

Hello, my name is Charlie Arbuiso and I will be your chemistry teacher. Welcome to our class. Together we will be working on the study of matter, which is called chemistry. I have printed this handout so that you will understand the course expectations and my expectations of you. Share this with your parents tonight, their homework is to read it tonight too.

Chemistry will be the most difficult course that you have taken in high school so far. Each part of it can be easy to follow and to understand, but there are so many parts and so many formulas and so much math, that without regular and sufficient practice you will struggle. If you do all of your assigned work when you are supposed to, you will earn the good grade that you deserve. If you are a student who falls behind and does not catch up quickly, or if you prefer not to do homework when they are due, you will probably not succeed with chemistry. If you are not up for that challenge please go directly to your guidance counselor, and switch to something easy like study hall. If you want to learn, and exercise your brains, then this is going to be a great class for you.

EXTRA CREDIT is NOT available in this class. You should be mature enough to appreciate the value of doing work when you should. If you are the type of person who NEEDS extra credit, this may be too difficult a class for you.

LATE WORK: is accepted, but is discounted big time. (points will be deducted for your slacking). Legitimate absences allow for extra time, and will be handled properly, but general lateness is not okay. Full credit requires you to stay on schedule.

EXAMS: I do not give any exams in my chemistry classes. I will give you the opportunity to prove to me you're learning from time to time with our "Celebrations of Knowledge". They look and taste a lot like tests, but we do not ever call them tests. No one likes tests so I will not annoy you with them. Usually there will be a make up, in case you bomb it the first time. The make up will be a different format, but similar questions. I would average the two together. Windows close on this, make ups are not available for long. You will take one unavoidable exam this year, the Chemistry Regents Exam. We will have regular (3x per week) quizzes to keep you paying attention as we make progress through the course work.

GRADING: All Vestal Chemistry classes follow the same grading system.

55% from celebrations of knowledge and quizzes

25% from lab reports

10% from your Homework + Classwork assignments

10% from class participation, academic rigor, etc.

My gradebook is on home access. Students must have access to their own grades so that they can keep track of where they are, get to realize when they forgot to hand something in, and watch their personal numbers increase (or decrease).

Your final course card grade = your 4 Quarter grades + Regents exam score divided by 5.

THE COURSE OBJECTIVES: New York State has a long outline of what I am to teach you. The short version is the "condensed curriculum", the long version is the "NYS Chem Curriculum". Both are near the bottom of the pages on Arbuiso.com

LAB REPORTS AND THE REGENTS EXAM: To qualify to take the regents exam the State Education Department requires you have to produce a minimum of 1200 minutes of lab time with passing lab reports as the proof you participated. These reports will be collected by your teacher. You will do ALL of the lab reports. Last year we did 1480 minutes. Missing, or late lab reports is the single most significant indicator that you are planning to fail chemistry. If you don't return enough passing lab reports you will NOT QUALIFY to take the Regents Exam. There are NO EXCEPTIONS to this rule, no matter who cries about it, or how much.

If you have no free periods, or no lunch, or have to leave for early dismissal every day, when will you ever get tutored or make up work that you missed? That is a bad setup. If you have a full schedule, unless you are as smart as Ernest Rutherford or Svante Arrhenius, (you aren't) you will end up in trouble. What will you do then? If your schedule is so full that you have no time to eat or relax, or get tutored, then you are doing school wrong. Fix this now. Tell your parents that you are a kid and need some down time to have fun/get tutored/relax/make up labs that you missed when you were ill or on a field trip/etc. If you have no free periods you are choosing trouble for yourself. If you have no free periods I want to talk with you immediately.

I will be doing my best each day, preparing for your learning. I will help you think and to expand your knowledge of chemistry – and of life. I will expect the same from you: your full participation in the process from being prepared with the right materials, to being rested, to accepting the class rules, listening to each other and to me, to having done assignments on time, and to being mentally up to the challenges of the day. You should have two pens or pencils, a calculator, you need to bring your reference tables every day. If you don't, you will fall behind. If you need something, ask. Do not sit there like a sleepy koala bear waiting, ask.

You may not use your cell phone in my class unless I tell you to photograph or video something cool in lab. It's not a calculator, it's a drama machine and a major distractor. If you use your cell phone in my class, I will keep track of it and deduct a point from the participation portion of your grade ever single time. I hate my cell phone and I hate yours even more. Don't test me on this. Parents, if you love your children, take their phones away until after school. We survived without cell phones, they will too.

I love my job. I love to teach and I love chemistry. No one has the right to interfere with me doing my job. No student has the right to violate anyone else's right to learn. This class will never be silent — but when I will need to call your attention and ask you to listen, I hope you will be mature enough to handle that. I will allow you to sit where you prefer for now. If you need to sit in the front, make sure that you do. I don't assign seats, unless it becomes necessary for some individuals.

My website, www.ARBUIISO.com has all class materials posted. It's updated regularly. If you need to contact me call, or text, to 607-727-3865. Please don't prank me, but I'm giving you my number so you can use it. Do not be afraid to call me if you have a question. I happen to be not so good at texting, and I will NOT know who is texting me. Please identify yourself if you do text me.

THE CLASS RULES:

1. No matter what your story is, you must still learn the chemistry.
2. You will not be permitted to disrupt class with talking, fooling around, or cell phones. I especially can't stand your cell phone.
3. Be prepared with paper, pens, calculators, and reference tables.
4. Do not dismiss me when you are done. I will dismiss you, our class usually runs right up to the bell.
5. Handwriting must be legible or it will be marked wrong, unless your IEP specifically states that you can't write well.
6. We will all respect each other at all times.
7. You will never, even once, copy the work of others. Copying is cheating, and where I am from in Ozone Park, the rule has always been that "Cheaters Cry". That same rule applies here in Regents Chemistry as well.
8. Working together means checking answers against each other, it does not mean copying, sharing, etc. All work that you copy from others, or share with others, will earn you a grade of zero. (see rule 7)
9. The more classes you miss, for any reason (legal or not) will decrease your report card grade. (see rule 1)
10. If you are absent, and you come back and we are "celebrating", you will celebrate too. If your grade is poor, then you will take the makeup soon. If it's good, then you are lucky. Either way, you will chase me to fix this, I won't have to chase you.

I am always available for extra help when ever I am in the building. My schedule is posted in the classroom. I always have the time for you. My lunch time or my prep time is your time. I can meet up after school or before school with some advance planning. It is my job to teach you chemistry and to help move you along the academic road to success. We can have a lot of fun, but I will set HIGH STANDARDS that I will expect you to meet. Count on me to pull you along when you need help.

IF YOU ARE ABSENT: You are still expected to make up all assignments that you miss (see Rule 1). The entire course is available online, so you can get the material. You will be granted the proper time allotted for your legal absence on all work. If you are absent from school you must make up all of the missing work. There is no escape from the chem. You are to put all work into the IN BOX. DO NOT EVER TELL ME THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW that an assignment was due or that I didn't give it to you. It is your responsibility to take care of yourself from now on. (See Rule 1). Watch your home access daily.

You are never permitted to cut chemistry. Cell phone use in the classroom is forbidden. If you ever need a day out of class, just ask and we will mange it. The only thing that indicates that you will fail chemistry more than missing lab reports it's if you use your cell phone in class. They hurt learning and they will lead to the end of thinking. If it's your parents that are texting you, tell me and I will write them up for detention. Parents: your kids will be okay until 2:40 PM without you.

I will sign any pass that you ask me to. You may be absent whenever you need to be, but you are always expected to make up the work (*emphasis is on YOU*). It should be obvious that your grade is directly proportional to the number of classes you miss (for any reason). Try to avoid missing chemistry class but know that I will not stop you from making your own bad choices. See Rule 1. No passes to get out of a celebration of knowledge will be honored unless the pass is from the school Principal.

Parents: please call me ANYTIME to discuss your child's progress in this course. My phone number is 607-727-3865, it's on my website in case you lose it. My personal email is arbuiso@arbuiso.com. You too are invited to visit class or even take in a lab, just call me to make the arrangements (I'm not kidding about this.) We'd love to have you and you'll enjoy it too!

Students, I hope you all take the time to visit with me in the class room anytime. Lunch will be a casual and fun. I will teach you how to play backgammon, I will listen to your music and make you listen to some of mine too. We can also can use this time for tutoring. I am happy to work as hard as I have to in order to help you succeed. I am ALWAYS available to help you. I will help you get through chemistry with the best understanding (grade) that you can muster. Good luck to you all. I'm happy you are here in this class with me. I am very much looking forward to our time together.

Problems will arise due to individual circumstances and we will deal with them. Talk to me about any situations that create academic problems or stress for you and we will manage them together. I've been at Vestal High School since my hair was black. I've just about seen it all, I am prepared for anything. This is not my first chemical rodeo and you are in good hands. I promise you this:

Everything will be okay, no matter what happens. Read that again, aloud.