

## 1st Day Handout 2023 — 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 we will understand the course expectations and my expectations of you. Share this with your parents tonight, they should read through this too.

Chemistry will probably 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 a 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 or lab reports when they are required, 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.

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 must have the reference tables and your calculator close by at all times.

You may not use your cell phone in my classroom ever. Cell phones are causing the most academic problems for students, and they are often used for cheating, distraction and drama. Please don't test me on this. See the cell phone addendum, parents, and students are asked to sign and return ASAP. The cell phone policy is already in effect, even if you haven't or do not sign the form.

My website, [www.ARBUIISO.com](http://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 a one finger texter, I'm slow. You are not in my contacts, so please identify yourself if you do text me.

EXTRA CREDIT is NOT available in this class. I expect you to 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 class may be too difficult for you.

LATE WORK: is accepted, but grades are discounted. (points are deducted for slacking). Legitimate absences allow you extra time, and will be handled properly, but late is not the same as on time. Stay on schedule for full credit.

EXAMS: I do not give any exams in my classes. I will give you the opportunity to prove to me you're learning from time to time with a "Celebration of Knowledge". They look and taste a lot like tests, but we do not ever call them tests. No one likes chemistry tests, not even me. You will take one unavoidable exam this year, the Chemistry Regents Exam.

### GRADING POLICY

Your Report Card Grades will be determined by a weighted average: 55% will be from the "celebrations", 25% from lab reports, 10% from homework, and 10% from classwork. My gradebook is on school tool. Students must have access to their own grades so that they can keep track of this themselves, and to watch in case I make a mistake.

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

## CLASS RULES:

1. You must learn the chem. It doesn't matter what your story is, you must still learn and do the chemistry.
2. You will not be permitted to disrupt class. You may not have a cell phone in class ever.
3. Be prepared with paper, pens, calculators, notes, and reference tables.
4. We will all respect each other at all times. Being a good person is a basic expectation in life.
5. You will never, even once, copy the work of others. Copying is cheating, and where I am from in Ozone Park in Queens, the rule always was "Cheaters Cry." That same rule applies in chemistry.
6. The more classes you miss, for any reason (legal or not) the lower your grades will probably be. (see rule 1)

THE COURSE OBJECTIVES: New York State has a long outline of what I am to teach you. The long version and a condensed curriculum are near the bottom of my website.

I am always available for extra help. At school I am able to help you 9 periods per day, or you can call me on my phone, day or night, and we can talk about chem.

LAB REPORTS AND THE REGENTS EXAM: To qualify to take the regents exam the State Education Department requires you have to produce enough lab reports to prove you've done a minimum of 1200 minutes of lab time. The lab reports will be collected. You are expected to do ALL of the assigned lab reports. 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 and earn a grade of zero for it. There are NO EXCEPTIONS to this rule no matter who cries about it, or how much they cry.

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 need. There is no escape from the chem. Put all assignments into the IN BOX. Please 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 now.

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 email is CBArbuiso@vestal.k12.ny.us or at Arbuiso@Arbuiso.com

Good luck to you all. I'm glad you are here in class with me. I'm 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 personal 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, and I am prepared for the rest. 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, out loud.***

***C.A.***

# Arbuiso Chem

## Cell Phone & Ear Bud Policy Addendum to the Class Rules

After 24 years of teaching it is clear to me that student cell phones are the biggest threat to the success of my students. They are used to instantly distract, to cheat, and they create drama. I believe that many students are actually addicted to them. Because many students cannot control themselves, this policy will now help them.

In order to create a classroom atmosphere that promotes academics, learning, and interpersonal social skills, as well as helping each child learn to pause and just think and imagine, I have created this cell phone policy.

When you enter my classroom you will place your cellphone away. You are not permitted, for any reason, to have your cell phone in my classroom. When you enter this room to learn, your phone is your enemy. If I see your cell phone you will be assigned lunch detention tomorrow. If you cannot do that, because perhaps, you don't have lunch, you will have after school detention tomorrow. There are no exceptions.

Failure to show up is insubordination and will be dealt with by the Assistant Principal.

I will call you up that day and tell you that your child has broken the "cardinal" rule and that I am assigning them detention. I hope that you will support this policy, and me, when it comes to your child's cell phone. It's my plan to work with you to help turn your child into their best self, academically and socially.

Many studies have shown that students who are close to their cell phones, even when the phones are powered down, they get distracted by them.

This policy also pertains to ear buds. If a listening device is seen in the ears of a student, that will result in detention tomorrow. Listening devices block the transfer of information, disrupts classroom management and ruin the psychological development of teenagers.

In our chemistry course there are no phones or ear buds allowed ever. That means never, without exception.

I ask that you discuss this with your child, and sign this form and have it brought back to me by Friday (tomorrow). I hope that you trust me that I have your children's best interests in my heart. I also hope that you respect my professional judgement that I have developed over a very long time. Failure to sign or return this form will not negate these policies for your child. If you do need to contact your child during the school day, they can get your call or text later, but not in class.

---

I understand that this cell phone policy and the ear bud policy starts immediately and is without exceptions, and I agree that I must never possess my cell phone or have ear buds in my ears in Chemistry Class. If I have my cell phone out in class for any reason, even if I just "forget", I will accept my one lunch period detention the very next day as my consequence. If I don't have lunch, I will agree to 30 minutes after school detention the very next day instead. I also agree that this applies to my ear buds. Failure to show up for detention is considered to be insubordination, which is dealt with by the Assistant Principal. Second offenses will have additional detention assigned to help reinforce this rule

Student

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed on or about September 7, 2023

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_