

## Mr. Clement's Chemistry Classroom Contract

New York State Regents Chemistry will be a demanding and challenging course. While some of the content may be familiar from previous studies, much of the content will be either new or investigated at a higher level. However, you can easily pass this Regents Chemistry course and the Regents exam in June if you put forth your BEST EFFORT.

### Success in Chemistry

To succeed in Chemistry, you will have to be able to take concepts from all points throughout the year (especially the beginning of the year) and continue to use and adapt that knowledge towards building an understanding of new concepts. While there is a lot to learn and remember, thankfully you will have a reference table for the whole year that when used correctly, can provide practically half the answers on the regents exam at the end of the year. Here are some additional guidelines to help you pass NYS Regents level Chemistry:

- **Come to class prepared (positive attitude, completed homework/labs, writing utensil (pencils preferred), calculator (if you want to use your own), REFERENCE TABLE**
- **Be respectful to yourself, your classmates, Mr. Clement, and any other individuals in the room**
- **\*\*Be sure to do your own work on all assignments and tests (even within groups)\*\***
- **Work hard (in and out of the classroom), ask questions, and don't just do it; Get it!**

### Daily Materials

Every class period the student should be prepared to bring, unless otherwise instructed by Mr. Clement ahead of time, the following materials:

- Writing Utensil (pencils are preferred, you will be showing work)
- Folder/Binder with notebook/paper (will contain all of the paperwork that you receive throughout the year)
- Laptops
- REFERENCE TABLE

Other materials such as text books or other items that may be required on certain days as well depending on the in-class lesson or homework assignment for the night. Be sure that these resources are readily available on a daily basis. If students come in unprepared for class, they will receive a deduction from their class participation grade.

### Extra Help

Students may seek extra help when Mr. Clement is available during free periods, or after school. Please check with Mr. Clement ahead of time to make sure he will be available and set up a meeting.

Mr. Clement's Free Periods: **Before School, 2<sup>nd</sup> Period, 6<sup>th</sup> Period, 9<sup>th</sup> Period, or After School Daily (MUST SET UP APPOINTMENT, DON'T JUST SHOW UP!!)**

## Grading

The following criteria will be used towards the calculation of your grades for each marking period:

- **20% Participation (Attendance, Preparation, Behavior)**
- **20% Homework and Quizzes (See more info in section below)**
- **30% Lab (Due next lab period, unless otherwise stated)**
- **30% Tests and Projects (Tests given at the end of each unit, roughly 1 per marking period)**

Additional criteria for the grading of each part above is listed below

### Participation

This is the easiest 20% that you should all be able to get. Overall participation grade will be based primarily on three components

- Attendance (The only way you can learn is if you are present, just show up!)
- Preparation (Come to class each day with what you need, see the first page)
- Behavior (Be ready to learn and be supportive of your classmates learning, ask questions and be actively involved in all class activities)

### Homework

Homework isn't given daily in science; however repetition and practice of these concepts is important to understanding the material. The only way to truly build an understanding of the concepts in chemistry is applying them. One trend that has been seen in the past few years is the copying of answers on homework just to complete the assignment without understanding. Therefore, a change in my homework policy is being introduced this year. Homework will be assigned as I normally have (ever couple of days of so) however which I assignments I will grade are going to be on a random basis. Some of the homework we will review in class, while others will be collected for grades, but it will not be known whether I will be grading the assignment until the very beginning of class. *Remember, you are only as good as the effort you put towards success.* When graded, you will receive points for correct responses only (doesn't mean you can't get help if needed though before it's due!!) Late assignments will be accepted, however the max score you will be able to receive on a late homework assignment is a 50% (assuming you got all of the questions correct).

### The Labs

In order to take the New York State Chemistry Regents Exam you must complete at least 1,200 minutes of hands-on laboratory experience and written reports. These laboratory activities and reports must be completed prior to being allowed to take the regents examination next June. You will meet this requirement easily if you complete them in a timely manner. You will have 1 full week to complete the labs and turn them into the homework bin. All labs will be graded out of 15 points. If a lab is turned in up to 1 week late, the max score they will be able to receive is 10/15. After 2 weeks of being a late, the max score that a person could receive would be 5/15. If not turned in after 3 weeks they will not receive credit for the lab, however are

encouraged to still turn in the lab for the minutes that can be applied to taking the regents the end of the year. Points will also be deducted for inappropriate or dangerous behaviors during the lab itself.

### **The Homework Bin**

All paperwork going to Mr. Clement is to be turned into the homework bin. Do not hand papers directly to Mr.C (I won't take them). Why you ask? A couple reasons

1. Your responsibility/accountability
2. Zero Percent chance of me losing anything (papers will literally move less than 5 feet during my grading process and being handed back to you)
3. Occasionally I don't grade assignments immediately and provides a safe place for them to be

### **Tests/Quizzes**

Throughout the year you will be assessed in order to track your understanding and progress. Quizzes and tests will be given and designed in order to test your knowledge of the vocabulary associated with the units, student's ability to connect material from previous units with current material, and connect their experiences in lab and class to the real world. Use of various types of questions (including previous Regents Exam questions) including multiple choice, short response, graphs, and diagrams will be used to assess your understanding of material.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

While there will be many times throughout the year in which you will be working with other people in your class/labs and collaboration will be encouraged and required, certain assignments and assessments will be given in order to see your individual abilities and knowledge of the course material. For these assignments working with others or using other resources to answer questions will be inappropriate. **Should a student not condone with these guidelines during tests, quizzes, or any other assignment specified by Mr. Clement, the assignment will receive a grade of 0 and your parents/guardians will be notified. No exceptions!! If continued cheating occurs in the class, administration will also be notified.**

**\*\*Remember, giving answers to someone makes you just as liable for cheating as receiving the answers\*\***

### **Cell Phone and Laptop Policy**

There are to be no cell phones out PERIOD!! If I see them out, I will be taking them and Mrs. Peck will take them for the rest of the day. Keep them in your pockets of backpacks.

As for laptops, these tools will be used daily for your benefit in terms of receiving and taking notes, getting and turning in assignments, and getting assistance when needed. That being said, these tools are a privilege and not a right. Should you choose to misuse the computers during classes, you will lose those privileges which will make this class far more difficult for you. Be respectful and use the laptops correctly or they will be taken as well.

**GPA Incentive**

If you score between a 60%-69% on the Regents, you earn 1 additional point to your GPA

If you score between a 70%-79% on the Regents, you earn 2 additional point to your GPA

If you score between a 80%-89% on the Regents, you earn 3 additional point to your GPA

If you score between a 90%-100% on the Regents, you earn 4 additional point to your GPA