

August 21, 2009

**Welcome to CHEMISTRY!!!!!!!**

I look forward to an enjoyable year getting to know each other while exploring the exciting and challenging world of chemistry. To help each student have a successful year, I offer the following suggestions:

**MATERIALS** Each student will need a **3-ring binder** and **loose-leaf paper** to organize their Chemistry notes and their lab portfolio. The ring binder must be for use in this class only. Plenty of loose-leaf paper will be needed for note taking, lab, and problem solving. We will be working with many handouts that should also be organized in the binder. In addition, each student must have a **scientific calculator** to use both at school and at home. This item is an essential tool in Chemistry! **This binder, calculator, and writing instrument should be brought to class every day!**

**ATTENDANCE** Regular attendance is very important to insure success of each student. Valuable practice and review is done everyday in class - not to mention exciting demonstrations! Students who continually miss class will fall behind and watch their grades fall, too. In addition, missed labs will result in an alternative assignment that must be completed outside of class time. **Avoid missing class!**

**STUDY** At the beginning of each unit, I will post a unit plan that outlines the goals each student is expected to master. This provides a guide to help the student study for each unit test. **Study outside of class is very important for success. Chemistry students expect homework daily providing practice to achieve excellence.**

**LABS** Throughout the year we perform many experiments and demonstrations, some of which present us with **safety concerns**. The use of flames, caustic substances, and poisonous materials emphasize the importance of listening to and following all directions given by the instructor. **With everyone following directions and behaving appropriately**, we will have a safe year together.

**GRADING** The following scale will be used to grade daily work, lab reports, projects, quizzes and tests:  
100 - 90% =A; 89 - 80% =B; 79 - 70% =C; 69 - 60% =D; 59 - 0% =F  
**No Credit** is earned for late work. Make-up work for an illness must be completed **within 5 school days. If a student only misses the day of a test/quiz, the student must be prepared to take that test/quiz the day they return to class.** For any lab experiment missed, the alternative assignment must be completed within 5 school days.

**PROJECTS** Each semester a research project of some type is required. Work outside of class is expected to complete the required research. These projects will connect chemistry topics to everyday life and will encourage each student to creatively use his/her talents!

I hope you find these suggestions helpful! As a final word, I encourage everyone to **stay caught up in Chemistry this year**. My course material is now available on District87's Moodle Server this includes helpful study tips, extra practice problems and the unit schedule. I am available after school for help until 3:00 p.m. most days. You are welcome to schedule an appointment to insure quality time. I also encourage parents to contact me with any questions and concerns.

**Again, best wishes for a great year!!!**

Mrs. Lawrence  
Phone 828-5201

web page [www.district87.org/staff/lawrencea](http://www.district87.org/staff/lawrencea)  
email [lawrencea@district87.org](mailto:lawrencea@district87.org)

After reading this letter, please share it with your guardian. Then both you and your guardian sign below and return this page by Thursday August 27.

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Student name

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Parent name