Dear Chemistry Families:

I am looking forward to a wonderful and exciting year exploring the world of chemistry with your child and helping your child become a lifelong learner.

A very exciting aspect of this course is the new Illinois Science Standards, which were adopted in February 2014 and are based on the Next Generation Science Standards. The NGSS are written as performance expectations and integrate three dimensions of learning: disciplinary core ideas, crosscutting concepts, and science/engineering practices. This course blends together performance expectations in the disciplinary core ideas of both physical and earth space science. Performance expectations can be viewed as assessment standards. This means most of the assessments this year will be **performance**-based. This is very different from the traditional experience of unit tests comprised mainly of multiple-choice questions. Students will be asking questions and defining problems, developing and using models, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematics and computational thinking, constructing explanations and designing solutions, engaging in argument from evidence, and obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information. All of the performance expectations will be given to your child at the beginning of the “unit.” These performance expectations are broken down into “I can” statements so your child can monitor his/her own progression towards mastery of the standards. Each class day, we will focus our learning towards mastery of the “I can” statements.

In PowerSchool, you will notice both formative and summative assignments. Summative assignments *will count towards your child’s final grade* in the class. These occur when students have completed the learning cycle. Formative assignments equate to daily work that we give feedback on during class. We place this information in PowerSchool so you can see your child’s progress during our class time as well as help monitor your child’s study habits. Formative assignments do **NOT** count towards your child’s final grade. This is where learning occurs and mistakes happen. We use the analogy that our formative daily work is like a scrimmage preparing for the “big game”. It is necessary to understand what we know/don’t know each day in order to prepare for major stakes (our summative assessment).

Attached please find our course syllabus and expectations. During the year please contact us with any concerns you might have. We can be reached best through e-mail. Welcome to a year of problem solving, critical thinking, data analysis, and fun!!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Melissa Hoffart

Chemistry

mhoffart@mchs.net

Please read and retain the following page for your records. Once you have read the information, both student and parent/guardian should complete and return this first page only along with the signed safety contract that was distributed.

I have read, understand, and agree to abide fully by the parameters set in the syllabus.

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Print Student Name Student Signature Date

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Print Parent/Guardian Name Parent/Guardian Signature Date

**Chemistry 2019 – 2020**

**Mrs. Hoffart**

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| **1A** | **2A** | **3A** | **4A** | **1B** | **2B** | **3** | **4B** |
| Chem344 | Chem 344 | Chem 344 | Resource 320 | Chem 344 | Chem 344 | Resource Central-165 | Forensics Central-165 |

I am available before school (7am) and after school (up to 3:30- later upon request).

I love to help everyone, and I have an **OPEN-DOOR** policy. Please try not to interrupt if lecturing, but instead come in, sit down, and be patient. Remember that this is a lab class and soon I will be circulating. **You are always welcome** to enter for questions or any other assistance.

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| **Course Goals:**-To gain skills in science literacy by immersing in the disciplinary core ideas of the physical sciences while utilizing science and engineering practices.  -To engage in critical thinking by gathering evidence, offering explanations, collaborating with peers, askingquestions, and proposing solutions. | **MCHS Mission:** Strengthen **M**astery, **C**ollaboration, **H**igh Expectations and **S**uccess for all Students**MCHS Values:** Continuous Improvement, Collaboration, High Expectations, Integrity, Resilience, Respect, Responsibility, and Service |
| **Course Expectations for Chemistry – MCHS Mission and Values are important expectations**1. **Be Courteous and Respectful** – Listen to each other and to your instructor.
2. **Be on Time** – Class begins and ends with the bell. Do not line up at the door.
3. **Be Prepared** – Have ALL materials ready with you each day. A list of necessary supplies for success is listed below.
4. **Be Safe** – All lab safety rules outlined in the safety contract are strictly enforced. We want to be immersed in a lab setting as much as possible but need to be safe.
5. **Be Honest** – Plagiarism is a form of stealing. Working with a lab partner does not mean copying someone’s lab report. Having someone else, including your parent/guardian, do your work, is considered cheating and stealing. In a learning community, cheating will not be tolerated. To learn, you must do. Be a learner!
 |
| **Class Materials:**Come to class prepared and ready to learn everyday. This should includes: * **pencil**
* **paper**
* **scientific calculator**
* **your planner**

**folder or organizer** to keep “I Can” statements, class discussion notes, laboratory materials, class hand-outs, and formative assessments needed for learning**Textbook:** You will have access to a online/digital textClassroom set is provided while in class. | **Absent/Make-Up/Missing Work Policy** **Regular class attendance is critical for the learning process to be effective*** If you’re absent, it is *your* responsibility to get the work you missed from the green folder on the wall at the front of the room. You will have the same amount of days you were absent to make up the work you missed.
* If you are missing work, you will have up to the end of the unit to turn it in and are eligible to receive up to half credit. “NHI” will be replaced with the earned late grade once completed.
 | **Cell phone/Ear bud Policy Material:**Simply put………They are not allowed in class unless directed by the instructor. Locate the cell phone use paper in the front of the room. Listening to music or using your phone means that you are NOT listening or learning. This can be detrimental to your understanding in class.  |
| **Grading Policy:** MCHS grading scale is used with no exceptions. This means absolutely NO rounding. The grading scale is listed in your handbook as well as the MCHS website. 80% of your semester grade is based on summative assessments. Summative assessments occur at the end of any given learning cycle and are based on the performance expectations for each unit. Summative assessments might be written reflections on learning, projects, presentations, lab practicals, DQ’s, quizzes, or tests (written response problems). 20% of your semester grade will be a final exam. Daily work, also known as formative assessment, occurs while you are learning.  This may be monitored in PowerSchool so you know your progress towards mastery of the performance expectations but it is not calculated as part of the grade. You **must** do your formative work to be ready for your summative assessments. While you are learning, feedback will be given to you so you know how to improve and be ready for your summative assessments.     | **Practice Quizzes:**Just like in sports, it is important to practice before the big game! Before summative quizzes, we will take formative daily practice quizzes. The purpose of this practice is to allow the instructor to monitor progress/understanding and possibly reteach standards that students did not fully understand. It also allows the instructor to cover material faster if students have already demonstrated mastery.**Summative Retakes:** We understand that a student may not fully understand a concept at the time of the quiz. Everyone learns at a different pace. Students will have the opportunity to retake any ***quiz*** before the final unit summative assessment. **It is the responsibility of the student to come to the teacher for extra help, obtain assistance in science lab, and then to schedule a time to retake the quiz.** This is a way to help better prepare the student for the upcoming Unit Assessment. |

**Remind101:**

Each student must sign up for text alerts from me for important reminders and class information. **Parents are welcome** to sign up as well. This site allows me to schedule reminders in advance for: lab preparation, study nights, tests and many additional options.

To sign up simply text to the phone **#81010** the following Chemistry class code: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and you will be signed up. The site may respond with a text asking for student’s name (so I will know who has joined the group). **Texting me back is very slow so emailing any questions is much better**.

**All information will also be found at Mrs. Hoffart’s Website:**  *mrshoffart.weebly.com*

**Things to remember:**

* Formative does NOT count toward your grade but does demonstrate progress.
* Summative quizzes may be reassessed before unit if desired.
* All guidelines in student handbook and safety contract are to be followed.
* Utilize SCIENCE LAB as much as possible to ensure your success!
* I am available before school and after school if you need extra help…just email me.
* Use your phone for more than entertainment by emailing with questions on your homework. Asking before class the day it should be completed is too late.