Chemistry I

Chemistry I is a college prep course for which Algebra is a prerequisite. Yes, that means you will get your hands on plenty of Math. ***A scientific calculator is required***. Each student must pay a lab fee of $26, which covers replacement chemicals, broken glassware, and chemical splash goggles.  **You will keep your goggles.**

Chemistry is an extremely important course for anyone wishing to pursue a career in any science, engineering, or medicine. Topics will include: writing formulas, writing and balancing equations, stoichiometry, pure substances, solutions, gases, thermodynamics, acids and bases, nuclear chemistry, and one of the most important things you will learn, lab skills.

If you are kind of nervous about taking chemistry (I know I was in your shoes) here are a few pointers. Chemistry is like a pyramid, without the foundation, you are never going to get to the top. It is extremely important that we are all mastering each topic and reviewing material on a recurring basis. A concept you may learn in week 3, will help you understand a concept in week 5. You need to come into class ready to pay attention, take notes, participate in class discussion, carefully read assignments, and making sure you are equally contributing on lab work. This is one of the classes where studying for 20 minutes the night before a test, is not going to be sufficient.

Your grade breakdown for this year will resemble something like this:

Chapter problems and questions – 3-10 points

Lab Reports – 20-40 points

Quizzes – 20-40 points

Tests – 41-75 points

Bellwork – Mole Dollars!

Students must purchase their own splash goggles from the school. This is part of the lab fee and participation in labs will not be permitted without goggles. Lab days are to be taken with the upmost importance, you are to enter the room, prep your area, and perform the required lab. I have a zero tolerance for horseplay during labs, if this occurs, you will receive a 0, along with a detention. We work with dangerous chemicals at times and you are not putting other students at risk.

Calculators will be allowed on tests but you need to provide your own calculator.  ***Long hair needs to be tied back***, it is flammable, can fall into chemicals, and can interfere with vision causing accidents.

I will do my best each Monday to post a schedule for the week. It will be your responsibility to check the schedule and to bring the appropriate lab materials and be prepared for lab. We will typically conduct a pre lab the day before a lab.

If you need help, I am available before or after school on most days. Just talk to me and we can work something out.

With all the serious issues aside, set aside being nervous, we are going to work together, explore some fun science, and have plenty of fun along the way.