

August 24, 2009

Dear students and parents,

Welcome to Chemistry I at Sarasota High School! Chemistry is a rigorous course which cannot be taken lightly. However, the effort that is required for success in this course will provide you with interaction with and a fundamental understanding of what is, in my biased opinion, the most exciting of all the sciences. This year promises to be an exciting and challenging year for you as you learn about many unique subjects of Chemistry, including:

- The Nature of Science
- Matter: Its Classification, Structure, and Changes
- Atomic Theory
- The Periodic Table
- Bonding
- Chemical Formulas
- Chemical Reactions
- Balanced Equations
- Stoichiometry
- Reaction rates and equilibrium
- acids and bases
- oxidation and reduction
- behavior of gases
- dynamics of energy
- chemistry of life

Florida Department of Education, Course Description - Grades 9-12, Adult

We will participate in hands-on laboratory experiments that will help you to understand the concepts that we cover in the textbook. We will gain valuable practice in measuring, problem solving, using different apparatuses, performing safety procedures, and conducting experimental procedures. Your lab reports will be completed in a professional format to emphasize the fundamentals of scientific proficiency.

The course will also emphasize the importance of reading literacy. We will practice on a daily basis the fundamental skills that will help you to strengthen your reading, writing, and listening abilities. Daily note-taking, organizational charts, reading strategies, and many other techniques will be used to help you easily comprehend the material.

My mission is to make sure that each and every one of my students succeeds in science this year. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am here Tuesdays after school from 2:15-3:30 pm. and at other times by appointment.

Email: Andy_Harshman@sarasota.k12.fl.us

Phone: 955-0181 ex. 64581

Sincerely,

Mr. Harshman

Print Student Name _____

Student_____

Date_____

Parent_____

Date_____

1. *Please sign and return to Mr. Harshman by tomorrow (8/25) acknowledging that you have read and understand the course syllabus and introductory letter.