

General Class Guidelines and Helpful Information

A. Classroom expectations

1. All students entering our class are familiar with what is expected in a **positive learning environment**. Some guidelines I would stress here are...

B. Meeting with Mr. Fletcher for Personal Assistance

1. Please see me if you are having trouble or feeling frustrated with class. Simply making the effort to speak with me outside of class about your troubles will probably lead to good things.

Formal times for tutoring (**advisory periods**) are available during the school week.

Tuesday 10:55 – 11:30

Thursday 10:55 – 11:30

I am available at many other times too, especially after school. This level of science is often challenging for students for numerous, valid reasons. If you find that you are having trouble please talk with your parents and me. In virtually all cases, if you are making a reasonable effort to be successful, we can help.

C. Promptness and Absences

1. Students are required to arrive to class on time. Persistent tardies may result in point penalties.
2. Work missed on the day of an **excused absence** will be accepted when the student returns, or reasonably thereafter. No credit is given for work missed, due, or assigned on the day of an **unexcused absence**. Before or after an absence students should work with the teacher during advisory periods to catch up (and sometimes, but rarely, during class if the opportunity arises).
3. There are numerous legitimate reasons for a student to be absent. Undeniably when a student is absent the student and the teacher must put in extra work to get caught up. Sometimes a student will accumulate numerous absences. In these instances, it is expected that the family will communicate with the teacher to facilitate makeup work. **If a student is absent 10% of the semester (9 days consecutive or nonconsecutive) or more the family is expected to contact the teacher to work out makeup plans. Additional work might be withheld and the student's grade suffer should the family and/or student not follow through on teacher contact and a makeup plan.**

D. Policy Regarding Handheld Electronic Devices (HHED)

1. Students are expected to keep phones and other devices away during class. The teacher will work with any student who has an emergency and must use the phone, but ask first please. Failure to comply may result in point penalties and other consequences.

PLEASE TURN OVER

E. Out of Class

1. There will not generally be assigned homework but students may occasionally have to finish work at home if class time is not sufficient for them.
2. Tests are open notes but assume that the student is organized, has the necessary documents, and has an understanding of the material. Some degree of studying for tests is helpful for most students. If test taking is challenging, work at home or with the teacher during advisory period might be helpful.

F. Unfortunately we must cover what happens if poor decisions are made...

1. Failure to follow the rules and procedures may result in disciplinary action and may affect one's grade negatively. Offensive, disruptive and/or unprofitable behavior will result in a student/teacher conference, possible point penalties and possibly additional consequences. Escalating and major problems will involve parents and possibly administrative referrals.
2. Students are expected to individually complete written work that is turned in. Students can certainly work together and help each other but **no direct copying is allowed. Identical work or work that clearly demonstrates copying will not be accepted, resulting in a zero for the assignment for both students involved.**
3. Plagiarism and cheating are very serious offenses and will be discussed before relevant projects, tests and so on. This type of activity will result in a "0" for the test or assignment and possible additional consequences.

These rules and procedures are fairly standard in most high school classes, and they are designed to produce an environment that is conducive to learning and performing science. Although we will learn other rules and procedures this year, these are the major ones (except for fire drills and lab safety, which will be discussed in class). This year should be a big step towards your successful future. Thank you for working together with me and your classmates to make this a fun and fruitful year! *Good luck, be confident, work hard!!*