

August 20, 2001

Dear Parent;

I'd like to welcome you to Chemistry, and invite you to take an interest in the work your child will be doing this year. Students have been given information describing the Chemistry course, including a syllabus for the beginning of the year, a list of materials needed, a course outline, assignment and grading system, philosophy of learning science describing our responsibilities to each other, study techniques, and a lab safety contract. Please help your child start strong by reading this information and discussing it together. Please sign where indicated and provide appropriate contact information for yourself. Your child may not participate in laboratory activities until this paperwork is submitted.

Students whose parents are concerned and involved are more likely to achieve. You can best support your child's efforts by providing a good study environment, helping your child prioritize schoolwork over jobs, extracurriculars, and athletics, working together with your child on take-home labs and notebook checks, and having a positive attitude. Your child has the ability to achieve in this course with the proper effort or he would have been counseled differently. No child taking this course is "not good in science" nor will the course be as difficult as it was for others. Your encouragement is key.

Chemistry homework is more than just pencil and paper work. It involves simple investigations of everyday things, which may take place in your home and may involve other family members. Please find a way to cooperate. It's fun to learn together. The purpose of these assignments is to allow your child to share his knowledge with another family member – parent, grandparent, sibling. Younger children especially enjoy acting as a lab partner in these activities. No knowledge of chemistry is needed to write a few general observations of the experiment you do together. These activities provide an opportunity see and communicate about your child's work.

All class assignments and most handouts are posted on the class website, found at <http://www.chemistar.com> They are all printable using Adobe Acrobat Reader. If your child must absent, he or she may go to the site for work missed in addition to contacting me before school upon returning. If you should have questions, I may be reached by email at luann@chemistar.com or at the phone numbers and times listed below. I check this e-mail address several times during the evening. Students are encouraged to contact me whenever there is a question. Most successful students contact me often.

Students are encouraged to ask questions as soon as they occur. A successful student realizes the importance of personal interaction with the instructor and will use the opportunities provided to do so during class time, as a class and individually. I am available at school after 7:00 AM and am usually at school until at least 4:00 PM. I often return to school in the evenings and students know how to find me there. If I am not there, I am often at home and available by phone.

Open House is scheduled for Monday, August 27, 2001. As you already have the mechanics of class with the materials sent home and filed for reference in student notebooks, Open House will be a time for you to see what we will be doing this year in class. Parents are welcome to visit class any time - no notice to me is necessary, but please check in at the office for an escort. You may consult the class syllabus or contact me for activities of interest.

I am looking forward to working with your child this year. Please contact me at school or at home with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your interest in your child's education and in our schools.

Regards,

Luann Lee

School 394-4011 (9:59 - 10:47 AM or after 3:05 PM or leave message and I'll return your call)

Home 394-2703 (after 6:00 AM until 11:00 PM, except during school hours)