

LB

Dear Chemistry student

The first thing about this class is that it is mainly about numbers and calculating things. It involves a lot of math, with surprised me at first. I thought we would be learning only about chemicals and atoms and stuff, but it also includes a lot of equations and processes of solving problems to memorize. This class is definitely one of the more challenging classes you'll take this year. An important thing to remember is that Mr. Genest is available to help almost everyday at lunch you everyday and that you never need to have correct answers to get homework credit. And also even the first month when you learn about metrics and dimensional analysis is very important because you'll be using it for the rest of the year. Learn this early so that you don't scramble to figure out how to do this at the beginning of the third quarter. (PS: sometimes Mr. Genest puts the homework answers on his website)

Sincerely,

La zanahoria amarilla

T.Y

Dear Chemistry Student,

Walking into chemistry on the first day may seem easier than it actually is, however the leap from biology to chemistry is bigger than one may expect. If you didn't already know, chemistry is very different from biology. While biology is about the study of life, chemistry is about describing matter, describing how matter behaves and the role of energy (these three points are very important to remember). So this means that you may be learning very new material that you have not heard about before such as LOL charts and titration, or you will be touching on things you have learned a little about in middle school.

Some of the things you should expect out of chemistry is always working hard. Like any other class, if you work hard and put in a lot of effort, your grades will show it. If you decide to not work hard and slack off, this class will be very difficult. You should also expect a few low scores on tests or some bad quizzes, but the main thing you should focus on is learning from your mistakes and asking for help when you need it. You should also expect homework every night so it is important that you do not slack on your homework or it will pile up in the end making it even more difficult to catch up.

Some of the things that caught me off guard was how different chemistry was from biology. Although I knew they were very different from each other, I did not expect such a huge difference. While biology focuses on subjects like mitosis and meiosis, in chemistry you study more about molecules and electrons. Also, the amount of homework and quizzes caught me by surprise. In my previous science classes, I did not have as much homework and quizzes as I had in chemistry. Meaning that I had a lot more studying to do than expected. Although my scores were low at first, I learned from my mistakes and studied harder for the next one.

Some things you should know about chemistry is that if you are in Mr. Genest's class, you will have quizzes every Friday. Making sure you are studying and paying attention throughout the week will be very helpful. Also, if there is a chemistry test to study for, be sure to look over your old homework or even get a copy of the past homework to really help you prepare for them. If chemistry does get difficult for you be sure to self-advocate for yourself, Mr. Genest will always be available after school on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and sometimes during lunch.

I hope that throughout this little letter, my few tips will make you feel more prepared for the challenge ahead of you! Good luck chemist!

N.Y.

Dear Chemistry Student,

First off, welcome to Chemistry!!! This class can cause you a few migraines, but it's actually really fun and rewarding. At first, chemistry may not be like what you thought it'd be like, but it gets better throughout the year. I remember the first couple months of chemistry were very difficult for me, but as the year goes on, it gets easier because pretty much everything that you've learned is applied throughout the course.

My advice for you is to prepare yourself to study and review a lot. There are quizzes every Friday on what you have learned the whole week. They are fairly easy, but if you don't understand what you're learning, you should look over your notes and homework or come in to see Mr. Genest. Reviewing old homework and notes before any test is also crucial. The extra practice and studying is really worth it, and will definitely better your test performance. If you don't get the scores you want at the beginning of the school year, that's totally normal! Chemistry can be really challenging once you've begun. I remember getting really low scores at the beginning of the year, but as we got more practice and familiar with the subject, my scores started improving. Overall, just look over old notes and homework, or come in for help which will really help in Chemistry.

I would also advise you to try and not miss any Chemistry class. Missing one day of class isn't too bad, but we actually cover a lot in just one day! If you do miss a class, be sure to check out Mr. Genest's webpage! He updates it with the notes and assignments every day!

Lastly, I would like to end my letter wishing you the best of luck! Looking back, I really enjoyed Chemistry class and I hope you do too!

Sincerely,

Anonymous

CM

Dear Chemistry Students:

Maybe you thought biology was hard, maybe you thought it was easy, I thought it was hard. But whichever way it's behind you and now you have to focus on chemistry. They are very different, biology was all like just science and chemistry is like science and math so you have to use even more of your brain. But don't worry a lot of people think that it's better than biology, I'm not one of those people. But anyway you have to make sure you listen and pay attention to all those little details because it can get a little complicated and as the year goes on you just add to what you've learned in the beginning of the year. You usually have homework everyday because Mr. Genest says that the teachers that don't care are the teachers that don't give homework and he's a teacher that cares so you get homework. But it's good because the questions on tests and quizzes mostly come right from the homework so it helps you prepare. Also you have a quiz every Friday unless you have a test that week, then you just have the test. Quizzes are pretty short and you can get up to 10 points and you get to draw funny pictures on the back of them. Tests are bigger and they are out of 100 so you have to make sure to do good on those because it's a lot of points.

You do a good amount of labs and you almost always have to wear goggles because you either work with fire, or acid or something that could hurt your eyes. With labs you mostly just have some questions and sometimes you have a lab report but there not that hard and you don't get that many.

I feel like that's mostly it. For me chemistry was hard but you just have to keep with it and I mostly did bad when I got lazy and got behind on my work. So just know that chemistry is hard but you will have a good time and hopefully if you didn't like biology you like chemistry.

B

Dear Sophomores,

Welcome to chemistry, you made it! Chemistry is going to push you, but it's also going to be a lot of fun. Chemistry is very difficult, especially at first. Studying for biology and studying for chemistry are two very different things that require different techniques. Don't be upset if the first test doesn't go as planned, chemistry is a learning experience and you have to figure out what's best for you as you move through the year. I was surprised by my first test score, I didn't realize how challenging the material would be and how much I would have to review. It is extremely important to keep your tests and homework, they will be very beneficial and are great sources of information. Before quizzes, look over your notes and homework for the week, it's pretty likely that most of the questions on the quiz will be based off your homework. Before big tests, go online and look at Mr.Genest's website, review all your homework from the units, and look over your notes. A technique that worked for me was redoing all the old homework, Mr.Genest provides blank copies at the front of the room. My next tip is crucial: go in for help if you don't understand something. I can't stress this enough, if you don't understand a concept go in for help at lunch or after school. The teachers are always available and a few minutes at lunch can really clear up any confusion. Homework and participation are a big part of your grade, so make sure you stay on top of it. Overall, the most important things to remember is to not panic. You'll be successful in this class as long you remember to work hard. Although chemistry is a challenge, it's also very rewarding. In the end all the hard work pays off, good luck!

-Former Chemistry Student

CL

Dear Chemistry Student,

You are about to embark on a wonderful year of tenth grade chemistry!! Although chemistry is a very fun class and you will learn a lot from your new teacher, Mr. Genest, it will be tough and challenging for some, if not all of you. Even though this class isn't completely designed to help you get ready for next year in physics it does help you learn some key learning techniques that will help you throughout your high school and college career.

What to expect in for this class is pretty straight forward and not that hard to understand but can sometimes be easily forgotten. Notes will be taken almost every day and there will be homework that goes along with the notes that were taken or it will be about things that were done in class. If you get lost at all while doing your homework or were absent a day you can always go to Mr. Genest's handy website (Genest.weebly.com) that has answers to past homeworks, notes on that day's lecture and hints on that night's homework!

There are also quizzes every week and a test every three weeks or so. The quizzes cover that week's worth of things that you learned not including what you learned on that Thursday or Friday before the quiz. The quizzes are usually ten questions and aren't that hard if you study. HINT: ALL THE QUIZ QUESTIONS ARE FROM THE HOMEWORKS OF THAT WEEK!! Yes it's true, all the quiz questions and test questions for that matter are from past homeworks, and a perfect way to study for those test and quizzes is just doing old homework assignments and looking over your notes that you made in class. Studying for this class is definitely different than other classes that you'll take this year. Just like a math class it builds off of itself so if you don't have the basics down pat (dimensional analysis) it's going to be hard to succeed later on in the year. But it's also different because even though you are memorizing equations, you are using your knowledge and memorized equations in real life, like when you do an experiment, which what I think is the most rewarding.

Some things that caught me off guard was that if I didn't study for a test that I would do poorly. In my past years of education I could usually get by without studying for a test or a quiz and still get a good grade but in chemistry the only way that you're going to learn the material is if you actually apply it in your real life. We all know that you aren't going to find that mass of how much silver nitrate was produced in a reaction with sodium chloride on a daily basis but you are not going to be able to even find the mass of silver nitrate if you don't practice how to it. Chemistry is not a class where you can just wing it and hope to get through alright because chances are if you don't study you're going to be caught off guard on your bad grade that you received. When it came to studying for test and finals in this class I would highlight everything. I would highlight notes from in class and homework question that I didn't completely understand or forgot how to do, then I would rewrite and condense my notes onto a separate sheet of paper and use that to study from.

As a former chemistry student there are a couple things that I would take away from this class. The first of which would be dimensional analysis, having to relearn it after a year without it was hard but I use it almost every day now to convert one type of measurement to another. I would also take away the learning techniques and how we as a class were sometimes put out on our own to teach each other what we learned, like when we did whiteboard activities. Lastly I would take away the solid knowledge that I as a chemist can describe matter, describe how matter behaves, and describe the role of energy in what is being observed. Have a great year in chemistry!

-Anonymous

HH

Dear Incoming Chemistry Student:

Entering sophomore year of high school may be exciting for you, but with this movement of grade also comes responsibility, especially when in chemistry with Mr. Genest. It has been a fun year for me, and in order to make it an enjoyable year for you, I want you to be prepared. In order to do so, you need to be a hardworking, motivated student.

Coming into this class, I thought it would be similar to biology, where the class would take notes, receive little homework and eventually take a unit test. In chemistry, however, it is important that you are well aware of what is going on, on a daily basis, as you will receive homework every day, and short quizzes every Friday, to reflect that you truly understand what the class has learned. For me, in biology, I didn't need to pay too much attention as I could just simply study what we learned before the unit test. On the other hand, with chemistry it is important that you know what is happening on a daily basis, and constantly keeping up and participating.

As far as studying, I highly suggest that you complete your homework assignments, as they will be excellent tools for you to refer to when it comes to quizzes and unit tests. Mr. Genest holds extra copies of all homeworks, so if you want to practice a sheet you were confused on, you can easily do so. In addition to completing homework, Mr. Genest is available during your lunch period, along with after school, both Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Overall, as long as you stay on top of things and ask for help, you should be very successful in this class. Don't be afraid to ask Mr. Genest or even your friends for help when you need it. Based on this letter, you may assume chemistry is difficult or boring. Despite the fact that there may be a greater amount of work, there are many very sweet labs that come with it. Hope you have a great year!

E.R.

Dear Incoming Chemistry Student,

I am a chemistry student survivor. Here are some tips and tricks to help you make it through the year. Chemistry is very math-based and requires memorization skills. Expect weekly quizzes, daily homework and to 'white-board' your answers. 'White-boarding' involves explaining how you got the answers to the problems, in front of the class. That is why it is important to attempt every problem on the homework.

If you are having trouble with the homework, you can check Mr. Genest's website for some helpful hints and/or to check answers (genest.weebly.com). If you missed a day in class, this is also a good place to find information; he will post notes and homework assignments from that day. Past class information is also saved on the website so that you can go back and review, if needed.

Pay attention in class. Do not rely on just one source of information. The verbal explanations, on both the homework and labs, are just as important as the written directions. Taking good notes will help you be successful in the class.

If you are having difficulty with any of the assignments, take advantage of the opportunities he offers for one-on-one help during the hours specified. I would suggest holding on to old homework sheets/quizzes so that you can find out what you did wrong and how to fix it. Periodically reviewing previous lessons will help keep the information fresh in your memory.

I hope this information is useful and that you will become a chemistry student survivor, like me.

Sincerely,

A Fellow Purgolder

B.S.S.

Dear Chemistry Student,

This class is going to be completely different from biology. When I took the class I didn't know what to expect, but this will help you prepare for the future. You will find that when taking this class you will be using more math than you expect. You will also be using the periodic table of elements and other tables and tools along the way. In the beginning it would be tricky and frustrating at first, but as the year goes on it will become more easier. Also if you ever don't understand anything make sure to ask about it during class so you understand it OR then come in during lunch if you need help. Coming in at lunch will be extremely helpful as well, especially before tests. For test the thing that is most helpful is THE HOMEWORK. Do the homework multiple times to study for the test (I didn't do this until the end of the year which was a bad choice, but once I re-did all of the homework, my test scores rose greatly). Memorize the equations and the definitions that Genest tells you to memorize as well because they will definitely be on the upcoming quiz. To check your homework and reviews go to genest.weebly.com for help. IT WILL HELP A LOT. Stay focused during class and take notes because when you are doing homework at night you will use your notes from that day. Good Luck

- pickles :)

Z.E.

Dear Chemistry Student,

First of all, congratulations on making it through Biology. Forget whatever grade you got in that class. Chemistry is completely different, and the sooner you learn that, the better the class will be for you. In Chemistry, you can expect less lab experiments and a lot more math. A lot of Chemistry is note taking, which caught me off-guard because I expected a lot of experiments. You'll spend a lot of time working in your notebook, so learn effective note taking quickly. Don't worry about a lack of experiments, the ones that you do will be pretty awesome, and well worth the wait in between them.

At the beginning of the course I had a hard time getting my homework in on time. My grade started out pretty low, but once I learned good study techniques my grade went up and stayed high. A good tip for Chemistry is to get into a steady homework completion habit by setting aside 30 minutes to do your homework everyday. If you do that right away, you'll be able to start off the year on a good note

If you pay attention, you'll learn a lot this year.

Good luck,

N.S.

Dear chemistry student,
Chemistry is way different than your past science classes. In chem there is way more math that it starts to feel like an extra math class. Don't let that scare you and make you feel like your going to do bad in the class if your not good at math. This just means that youll have to work harder to get the grade you want. And if your ever struggling in class don't be afraid to stay after and ask for help. I wish I wouldve taken advantaged of Mr.Genest help more. Also ask questions in class! Your not the only one confused and clarification questions will help you learn the material. A good way of studying for quizzes and test is to go trough your notes with a highlighter and highlight important equations you'll need and key vocab words. Also, looking trough your notes and looking at examples will be a big help for homework and studying. Lastly, **DO YOUR HOMEWORK!!** Test are literally the same as the homework assignments. And don't lie about completion because if you do get caught you'll get zeroes for the previous three assignments. Good luck in chemistry!

C.S.

Dear Chemistry Student,

Hope you had a good summer! Now that you're back in school, you have chemistry which is where you would read this letter. There are a few tips about chemistry that I want to tell you guys, because if I would have known them before hand I would have been even more successful. First is that you should do all your homework every night. Even if your tests aren't that great, doing your homework helps to keep your grade up. Also, doing your homework prepares you for tests and quizzes because Mr. Genest uses problems straight from the homework on the tests and quizzes. If you do the homework, you just need to study them and you will get higher grades than if you didn't.

Another tip is to write down all the notes that you do in class. Sometimes it seems a little boring and pointless, but it pays off in the end. You can study notes easily, and even if you don't, writing them down will help you to remember it better. One thing about chemistry that caught me off guard is that it is actually a lot of math. It's not like biology at all, and it's mostly calculating numbers and using formulas more than anything. Studying is different for chem than other classes because you literally have all the answers to the test questions with you, all you have to do is take the time to learn them. Finally, a unique trick I use is that I write all the notes down that we go over, but then also when there is an important note or concept I know I really want to learn I write it on the cover of my folder so that I look at it more and am able to memorize it. That's about all I have for you, so I hope you the best for your school year and for chemistry.

Good Luck!

Conor Schlichting

S.G.

Dear Chemistry Student,

This class with Mr. Genest is full of surprises, good and bad. I found it easier than Biology but many of my classmates thought otherwise. Know that this class is a walk in the park if you study your notes every week and understand the homework. If you chose not to do the homework, you won't get a good grade. Every week, you will be given a small quiz and although it is only worth ten points, if you get a bad grade on every quiz, you are going to notice a large drop in your grade. As long as you can understand the homework, you should do fine on the quiz that week. Studying for this class is different because if you do the homework and understand it, you are not going to need hours of extra studying every week, unlike history. This also means that you should take lots of time with your homework and do not just blaze through it. Mr. Genest is available every day at lunch so use that time to catch up if you missed a few days or if you didn't understand what you learned that week. An important tip you can use is to visit his website (genest.weebly.com) and you can print off blank old homework and then check your answers when you finish. I hope this letter was helpful and have fun in Chem!

Dear Young Chemistry Students,

This is your 2016 senior, you are now in Chemistry with Mr. Genest. You are expecting to do well and have fun. But don't expect to build an atomic bomb. Chemistry class is like another math class. You'll have to memorize a lot of equations and vocabularies if you want to have a good grade! Quizzes are every Friday! What's on the quiz is what you learned last week to the current week, Monday through Wednesday. What caught me off guard is the equations and the numbers you'll be using, and how you use it. Pay close attention to what Mr. Genest is doing in class! If you don't get what's going on, ask questions! If you're not comfortable asking in class, he's available everyday during lunch in his room, and every Tuesday and Friday after school! (It doesn't hurt to ask!) How I got low scores is by not asking a lot of questions and not participating a lot. When I was starting to ask questions and have examples one on one with Mr. Genest, my grade was better than before. Do your homework! Even though it's a pain if you don't know what to do, at least you're trying and getting practice. Extra credit is a rare thing, take advantage of that! It doesn't matter if it's only two points extra credit, a little bit helps. (This letter is extra credit by the way, FYI. Not saying I didn't want to help you guys.) For me, there are no tricks, but the tip is, ask questions in class or after class. It doesn't always have to be your teacher to help you on your assignments, it can be a person that's doing great in that class, or have a friend that struggles like you, and both of you can work on assignments together. (Ms. Tjugum can even help you.) If you and your friend does not know how to do a problem, then ask your chemistry teacher, then both of you guys can practice with each other and learn from one other. It's more enjoyable to study and practice that way! Like me and my friend Kou. But just don't slack off.

Good luck, and don't give up!

From your 2016 Senior,

Brian Lee

P.S. Wasn't at school and missed notes? Don't know the answer to the homework the other day because you were at home sick? They're on online for you! Mr. Genest has a website! It's a rare thing for teachers to have a website to help students! Go to www.Genest.Weebly.com, It really helps, I guarantee it. Don't let the website die!!!

A.M.



Dear incoming freshmen,
chemistry class with mr. Genest is pretty awesome. From the unique teaching to the lab experiments.

Beware of the quizzes every Friday!
(Meaning study constantly, and come in for help when needed) "I personally didn't ask for help as much as I should have, which put my grade in a lower range. But when I actually took time to set my social life to the side and ask for help, my grade improved a letter grade.

Some precautions you should take is:

-keep up with homework

(It does effect your grade eventually)

-Be open to learning new things

Lastly, be sure to give your all in your work because mr.Genest will go that extra mile to make sure you as a chemist, will go far in life.

Sincerely,

That awesome new Junior!!!!

ALEXUS

Dear incoming freshmen,
chemistry class with mr. Genest is pretty awesome. From the unique teaching to the lab experiments.

Beware of the quizzes every Friday! (Meaning study constantly, and come in for help when needed) "I personally didn't ask for help as much as I should have, which put my grade in a lower range. But when I actually took time to set my social life to the side and ask for help, my grade improved a letter grade.

Some precautions you should take is:

-keep up with homework

(It does effect your grade eventually)

-Be open to learning new things

Lastly, be sure to give your all in your work because mr.Genest will go that extra mile to make sure you as a chemist, will go far in life.

Sincerely,

That awesome new Junior!!!!

Dear Chemists,

I believe you will have a good time in this class. I really enjoyed myself last year and hopefully

you will this year. Mr. Genest can be boring at times, which everyone is, but he is a really good

teacher. I'm just about to say do your best and not give up. I gave up once but I got back on track

and passed, but don't be like me, do your best at all times.

You can expect to learn things about Chemistry. Seriously, you can expect to learn about atoms,

periodic table, how things react, and lab safety. Also you'll learn:

1. Chemists describe matter
2. Chemists describe how matter behaves
3. Chemists describe the Role of Energy in what they observe

Things that caught me off guard and/or surprised me was Chemistry all together. I never knew it

could be so hard or easy. Some topics were easy and some were hard. Studying for this class is

easier than studying for other classes. I say this because studying for this class, all you have to do

is keep all homework and notes from him. Starting out it can be rather hard, which means you

will get bad grades. Once you get used to it, you will know all it takes to get a good grade and

you will start passing.