

Wednesday 9-20

I returned a lot of lab reports and homework today. Same mistakes as last year. You have to write your formulas so that you develop the skill to put the numbers into the right places, and don't forget things like the X 100% in percent error. Percent error MUST have a positive or negative sign.

$K = C + 273$  is THE formula, change it if you must (you don't). To solve for centigrade do some simple algebra. Just because you write it out as  $C = K + 273$  does NOT make it right.

In your conclusions, conclude. Share not that you "learned this or that" but HOW. Tell that you measured the temp of two kinds of boiling water and that you learned to read the thermometers to the nearest 10th of a degree. Tell which formulas you used -  $K = C + 273$  and the percent error formula. Don't hint, try it like you're getting paid by the word.

Speak in WHOLE SENTENCES. Try reading it aloud before you hand it in. Watch Sig Figs, learn the rules. Do the math, make sure your units cancel.

Come in for extra help if I suggested it. I don't bite, I am rather helpful (and that's not bragging), and you need the help if I tell you that you do. I want you to find success, but if you are on the wrong track, trust that I can see better than you now; let me help you.

Friday we celebrate. Study, do the math problems over and over. Bring a calculator and pencils. Peace, love, chemistry and rock and roll.

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Tuesday 9-19

Remind your parents to come to open house tonight. I'll be here and I'd like to shake their hands!

AM Chem does the Density-Penny Lab, due next MONDAY

PM Chem does the Measuring Activity due Wednesday

Friday we Celebrate our knowledge: that means you should be memorizing your vocabulary now, practicing your math problems, and most assuredly, reviewing the rules to significant figures, which feature prominently throughout the year. You also (as a group) are NOT GETTING THIS on the lab reports. Significant figures are not IN-significant.

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Monday 9-18

AM Chem does the Measuring Activity, due Wednesday

PM Chem does the Density-Penny Lab, due next MONDAY

We'll switch that around on Tuesday.

Friday is the "Celebration of Knowledge", start studying, which means practicing. We WILL NOT do any more notes for measurement, but there are still #116 through the end. Do those ON your own, check answers on the white board in the back of the classroom.

I also handed out a practice SF handout, answers will also be hanging in the back, not graded.

Due Tuesday for everyone: Measurement HW #2 and #3.

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Thursday 9-14

To be happy in life, to find a nice spouse, to get a nice house, and to get a dog that won't mess the kitchen floor, you need to memorize a few things. It will help in class, in life, on crossword puzzles, etc. Put this into your head ASAP: Conversion factors....

## Length

12 inches = 1 foot      36 inches = 1 yard = 3 feet      5,280 feet = 1 mile      1 inch = 2.54 cm

100 cm = 1 m = 1000 mm      10 mm = 1 cm

## Mass

16 ounces = 1 pound = 454 grams      1000 grams = 1 kilogram      2000 pounds = 1 ton

## Volume

1000 mL = 1 Liter      4 quarts = 1 gallon      1 quart = 1.06 Liters      1 mL = 1 cm<sup>3</sup>

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Wednesday 9-13

The AM and the PM classes are on slightly different tracks due to the schedule, but we'll come back together to "celebrate" soon enough. The first lab report is being returned today. Some of you got a temporary "zero" grade because you thought I was kidding about the frilly paper from spiral notebooks. I wasn't. No frilly paper means my dog doesn't eat it and my wife stays happy.

Some of you made errors that need to be corrected to boost your grade up. I usually grade harshly, with the intention of you earning back some points if you repair your lab report. The goal is to learn, and sometimes it takes a second time to show me the knowledge.

Writing formulas, showing your work are mandatory. I bet you didn't copy the answers, but without work it's hard to tell how you arrived at your answer. It is hard to instruct you through mistakes when there are none to see. You'll fix that.

If I were you I'd consider ending all lab reports with the classic line:

"I love chem, the end." It puts me in a good mood (which is good for you ha!) and it reminds you that you do love chem and should love chem and that chem loves you no matter how you feel. Trust me, it works.

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Tuesday 9-12

Today in the AM classes we caught up with the Significant figures. In the PM classes we finished up the first part of unit conversion math, and did the Temperature Lab. For the PM classes, that lab is due Monday.

Water boiling in glass pan **What gas is bubbling out of the water? Think!**



You can always hand in work early, or come in with it, review it with me (fix your boo boos) and hand it in perfectly. That usually ends up being way better for your grades.

Read the BASICS (of course) and Wednesday everyone hands in their Measurement Lab. On that, we didn't know SF yet, so they don't count. Just do your best, do not worry.

If you waited until the last minute, ask yourself how you feel right now. Does it feel icky? If so, do your work in advance, you'll feel better.

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Monday 9-11

Today we took care of some business with the SLO, and moved along to temperature conversions and some Significant Figures. I capitalized that to help you realize how important they are, and remind you to learn them.

To convert temperature (centigrade to Kelvin) use this formula:

$$K = C + 273$$

Use it EVERY TIME. Don't get casual and add 273 every time, or subtract 273 either. Write the formula, do the math, get it right. The easy stuff (this is easy) is the hardest too, because being casual leads to trouble academically. Just commit to doing the work required and getting it right, and you will.

As to SF, just buckle down and practice. Homework #2 is due Tuesday.

Here's a link to Tony Bennett singing "[I left My Heart, In San Francisco](#)", a fabulous song. I dare you to click on it! Double dog dare.

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Over the weekend: READ the Measurement BASICS, it's the front part of your notes packet. It's our "textbook", and contains lots of good stuff. When you read, even if you don't completely understand all of it, bits and pieces get stuck in your mind, and that will make it easier in class when it gets introduced. Of course, you could skip the reading, but then the class presentation will be harder for you to grasp.

Work on your Measurement Lab Reports too. Question #2 is about "Co" or cobalt, but we didn't measure cobalt, we measured Pb, Bi, and Sn. You could change the symbol to one of those three, or skip that question. Use LOTS of paper, it's cheap.

Consider making flash cards, there is a lot of vocabulary already, more to come soon.

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The "SLO" test, which measures how much chemistry you know at the start of the year will be given on Monday. This will not be for a "grade" for you, rather it establishes a baseline of what all of my classes know about chemistry already. This will be compared to the group Regents Exam score, to measure if I have taught you enough. You can't study for this, you should NOT worry about it either. This note is a heads up, you'll all do fine.

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## Thursday 9-7 Day 2

Thursday we learned some basic vocabulary including: qualitative and quantitative measures, error, percent error, accurate, precise, and standard units.



For Friday do Measurement HW #1, and make sure it gets into the inbox (or else).

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### Wednesday 9-6 Day 1

We made water today: hydrogen + oxygen yield water. It was very exothermic too (bang!)



Hydrogen and oxygen are elements, they combined into a compound.

When 2 or more small things combine into something larger, it's called synthesis. On rare occasions it's called "combination" but I don't like that much.

Homework tonight is to READ the 1st Day Handout through, and fill in the Student Info Forms neatly. Put these forms into the IN BOX on Thursday for full credit (10/10).

Welcome to chem, I am glad you are here.

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## Regents Chemistry at Vestal High School

Please bring to class paper, pens, a calculator, and a solid personal awareness that you will be working hard to learn every day. You will be put to the test daily (so to speak) to think, to challenge yourself, and to stay on top of all assignments.

There is a NEW student cell phone protocol being worked out, but we will adopt it from day one. You will be placing your cell phones (powered down) into individual plastic boxes under your seats. No phones in class, no phones if you leave for the rest room, no phones between classes when we have double period labs. That is my rule, and it's important.

I look forward to meeting you all soon, we have much to talk about!

- Charlie Arbuiso