

Regents Chemistry Mr. Arbuiso 1st Day Handout 2025 — 2026

Hello, my name is Charlie Arbuiso and I will be your chemistry teacher. This is my 22nd year doing this here. Welcome to our class. Together we will be working on the study of matter, which is called chemistry. I have printed this handout so that we will understand the course expectations and my expectations of you. Share this with your parents tonight, they should read through this too.

Chemistry will probably be the most difficult course that you have taken in high school so far. Each part of it can be easy to follow and to understand, but there are so many parts and so many formulas and so much math, that without regular and sufficient practice, you will struggle. If you do all of your assigned work when you are supposed to, you will earn a grade that you deserve. If you are a student who falls behind and does not catch up quickly, or if you prefer not to do homework or lab reports when they are required, you will probably not succeed with chemistry. If you are not up for that challenge please go directly to your guidance counselor, and switch to something easy — like study hall. If you want to learn, and exercise your brains, then this is going to be a great class.

I will be doing my best each day, preparing for your learning. I will help you think and to expand your knowledge of chemistry — and of life. I will expect the same from you: your full participation in the process from being prepared with the right materials, to being rested, to accepting the class rules, listening to each other and to me, to having done assignments on time, and to being mentally up to the challenges of the day. You must have the reference tables and your calculator close by at all times.

My website, www.ARBUISO.com has all class materials posted. It's updated regularly. If you need to contact me call, or text, to 607-727-3865. Please don't prank me, but I'm giving you my number so you can use it. Do not be afraid to call me if you have a question. You are not in my contacts, so please identify yourself when you do text me.

EXTRA CREDIT is NOT available in this class. I expect you to be mature enough to appreciate the value of doing work when you should. If you are the type of person who NEEDS extra credit, this class might be too difficult for you.

LATE WORK: is accepted, but grades are discounted. (points are deducted for slacking). A legit absence grants you extra time, but late is not the same as on time. Stay on schedule for full credit.

EXAMS: I do not give exams in my classes. I will give you the opportunity to prove to me you're learning from time to time with a "Celebration of Knowledge". They look and taste a lot like tests, but we do not call them tests. No one likes chemistry tests, not even me. You will take one unavoidable exam this year, the Chemistry Regents Exam.

GRADING POLICY

Your Report Card Grades will be determined by a weighted average: 55% will be from the "celebrations", 25% from lab reports, 10% from homework, and 10% from classwork. My gradebook is on school tool. Students must have access to their own grades so they can keep track of their progress and to make sure I don't make a mistake (I'm not perfect but I try hard).

Your final course grade = your 4 Quarter grades + Regents exam score, divided by 5.

CLASS RULES

1. You must learn the chem. It doesn't matter what your story is, you must still learn and do the chemistry.
2. You will not be permitted to disrupt class. You may not have a cell phone in class ever.
3. Be prepared everyday with paper, pens, calculators, notes, and reference tables.
4. We will all respect each other at all times. Being a good person is a basic expectation in life.
5. You will never, even once, copy the work of others. Copying is cheating, and where I am from in Ozone Park in Queens, the rule was always "Cheaters Cry." That same rule applies in chemistry.
6. The more classes you miss, for any reason (legal or not) the lower your grades will probably be. (see rule 1)

THE COURSE OBJECTIVES: New York State has a detailed curriculum of what I am to teach you. The longer version, and a condensed version, are a click away from arbuiso.com

I am always available for extra help. At school I am able to help you 9 periods any day, or you can call me on my phone, day or night, and we can talk about chem. If you have no free periods that is a bad plan. What will you do to make up work you miss? And that's not just chem. You make your schedule, you will need help sometimes.

LAB REPORTS AND THE REGENTS EXAM: To qualify to take the regents exam the State Education Department requires you have to produce enough lab reports to prove you've done a minimum of 1200 minutes of lab time. The lab reports will be collected. You are expected to do ALL of the assigned lab reports. Missing, or late lab reports is the single most significant indicator that you are planning to fail chemistry. If you don't return enough passing lab reports you will NOT QUALIFY to take the Regents Exam and earn a grade of zero for it. There are NO EXCEPTIONS to this rule no matter who cries about it, or how much they cry.

IF YOU ARE ABSENT: You are still expected to make up all assignments that you miss (see Rule 1). The entire course is available online, you can't say you couldn't find it, it's all there already. There is no escape from the chem. Put all assignments into the IN BOX. Please DO NOT EVER TELL ME THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW that an assignment was due or that I didn't give it to you. It is your responsibility to take care of yourself now.

Parents: please call me ANYTIME to discuss your child's progress in this course. My phone number is 607-727-3865. My email is CBArbuiso@vestalcsd.org Both are on my website contact page.

Good luck to you all. I'm glad you are here in class with me. I'm looking forward to our time together.

Problems will arise due to individual circumstances and we will deal with them. Talk to me about any situations that create academic problems or personal stress for you and we will manage them together. I've been at Vestal High School since my hair was black. I've just about seen it all, and I am prepared for the rest. This is not my first chemical rodeo and you are in good hands. I promise you this:

Everything will be okay, no matter what happens. *Read that again, out loud.*

C.A.