

When I asked my class in early June to give you some advice, this is what they came up with. I hope that you take to heart what they are telling you. It's a lot of what I say, and year after year I get a lot of the exact same stuff to tell the newbies.

If you think you will do well doing things YOUR WAY, you are likely not making a good plan. Try to believe that I am your biggest cheerleader, I want you to succeed as much as you want to. The kids from last year wish that they did better. These are their quotes for you.

If you could give someone taking Regents Chemistry next year some advice, what are the three things you might suggest for them to find success?

Do labs on time. Take notes. Keep old tests, good or bad grades. Read the BASICS. Come in for help sooner than later. Study a lot. Do the labs on time. Read the reference tables at home. Put your finger in the box. Patience. Deep breaths. Don't slack, do your work. Do your homework. Don't cheat. Learn your SF. Ask lots of questions. Listen in class. Ask Arbuiso lots of questions. Go in for help. Take the practice tests. Read every single BASICS, they are extremely useful. Do your homework. Do all of your labs, it's worth it by the end of the year. Don't cheat, cheaters cry. Sit in the front of the class, you will learn more.

Go in for extra help. Don't study just the night before. Don't cry, call Arbuiso on the phone. Put your finger in the box. Write out the formulas for all of the problems. Do your own work. Don't be lazy. If you don't understand, no matter how dumb you think it sounds, ask questions. Check your grades all the time, he makes some mistakes. We forget what we didn't hand in too. Don't ever get behind. Go in for help before it's too late. Don't be like me at the beginning of the year, Pay attention and trust the teacher.

Read ALL of the BASICS. Don't be discouraged if you get a bad grade. Ask a lot of questions. Do your own homework, don't copy, it's not worth it. The tests (celebrations) will kill you if you don't study. Don't do the labs at the last second. Ask for help. Don't try to do everything alone, you will need to work with people to understand things. Make friends with some classmates. Go on the website, seriously, there are many helpful study tools there. Call Mr. Arbuiso for help, anytime, anywhere, about anything. He helps a lot with lab reports or homework assignments. Keep up and turn everything in on time! Read through the BASICS for key vocabulary words. Do labs before the tests. Don't cheat.

I agree with each of those comments. My top points of advice are these:

1. Never cheat, do your own work, you need to know it.
2. Work with friends (but don't copy), someday they'll explain to you, other days you will explain to them.
3. Do the lab reports on time. If you don't truly know what's going on in lab, don't waste your time, ask. I get paid to make you understand. If you are just filling in boxes you will not find success anyway.
4. Don't wait for the last moment, get things done ahead of any deadlines.
5. Take personal responsibility for yourself and your work. You can have any grade that you deserve, this is ALL on you. There's no extra credit, you better get it right the first time.
6. Read the BASICS, I didn't type them, or edit them, or update them, just for finger exercise. You are responsible to learn how to read and learn as much as doing classwork.
7. Ask questions as often as you can, I never get bored, annoyed, or mad. Demand an education, I will provide it.
8. Never use your phone in class, even for a moment. Phones ruin you and will harm your learning. Be alive, not digital.