**John Ehret High School** September 11, 2013

4300 Patriot St.

Marrero, LA 70072

(504)340-7651

**Chemistry, Honors**

Instructor: Mr. D. Bloomenstiel, Room 258 email: **donald.bloomenstiel@jppss.k12.la.us**

My name is Don Bloomenstiel (pronounced: blue-men-steel) and I would like to welcome you and your child to the 2012-2013 school year at John Ehret High School. As a former research chemist, I bring a unique scientific perspective to the student. I have devoted a lifetime to the pursuit of science and have a strong desire to share my passion for science with your child. Chemistry and physics are the building blocks of the universe and life itself. By participating in my chemistry course your child is taking the first steps of a voyage to view nature’s grand scheme. It is my desire that your child find the sights along this voyage to be so captivating that he or she will want to continue this voyage the rest of their lives. The journey is not always an easy one. New and difficult terrain must be traversed. As your child’s teacher and guide, I hope to make the voyage an informative and inspiring journey into the realm of chemistry and the natural world.

**Course Overview**

My class uses an evidence based researched teaching method called Modeling Instruction. This method was developed at Arizona State University and is has been declared Exemplary by the United States Department of Education. I have had over 120 hours of training in this teaching method. You may hear your child tell you that this science class is different from anything that they have ever experienced. The class relies heavily on lab work.

**Major topics**

**First Quarter**

Inquiry/ Measurement Models of the Atom

Science Project Bonded Particles

**Simple Particle -** Describing Matter **Counting Bonded Particles – the Mole**

**Simple Particle -** Energy and States, **Particles with Internal Structure**

**Sticky Particle – Energy and States**

**Second Quarter**

Chemical Reactions **Properties of Water and Solutions**

**Representing Chemical Change –** Simple Biological Molecules

**Periodic Table and Bonding** Acids and Bases

**Sticky Particles – Intermolecular Forces** Stoichiometry

**Science Experiment and Report Project**

*A requirement of the IB/ Honors program at John Ehret High School is the successful completion of a science research and experiment project.* This project counts as two test grades. Your child must design and perform an experiment where something is measured as part of this requirement. A Power Point presentation and a research paper/ lab report are the end products which will be submitted for a grade. The projects will be reviewed by the Science Department and the best projects will be selected for entry into the regional science and engineering fair held at UNO in February. *For more information please see my class webpage at*

**http://bloomenstiel.wikispaces.com**

**Required Materials**

1. Dedicated notebook or a dedicated section (divided by separators) of a notebook for chemistry notes.
2. **Bound composition notebook** to be used as a journal and laboratory notebook
3. Scientific calculator. Casio makes excellent calculators at a significant savings over TI.
4. Folder or dedicated pocket in a notebook for chemistry papers only
5. A minimum of two pens and a pencil

**Textbook**

The assigned textbook is Pearson Chemistry. The replacement cost of this textbook is $84.00. These textbooks are new. Therefore it is very important that these textbooks are protected with a book cover and care be taken to keep the books in good condition. Additional resources such as lab manuals, workbooks, and review guides will be available in the classroom.

**How to Contact the Teacher**

I look forward to meeting and working with you. My door is always open to parents. Please contact me anytime with any concern you may have. My free period and conference time is scheduled for third period, 9:15 – 10:35. You may reach me at the phone number indicated at the top of this letter. I am also available after school most days. I would be more than happy to meet with you upon your request. My email address is

**donald.bloomenstiel@jppss.k12.la.us**

**Expectation of study habits**

Chemistry is a college preparatory course and therefore is taught at a high level. Your child will receive a reading assignment at least three times a week, a minimum of two written homework assignments or problem sets per week, laboratory reports to complete, a quiz every Friday and a unit test every two - three weeks. I would expect my students to study, review, and work on completing assignments no less than a half hour per night, five nights per week. A student that desires to earn an above average grade will usually need to study an hour per night or more.

Students are expected to:

* complete daily assignments or work missed due to illness or school activities
* complete long-term assignments
* review work presented/discussed each day

study for tests, exams (daily review makes this easy.

**Homework Policy and Make Up Policy**

Written homework assignments are graded. All of the homework and handouts are online. A grade of zero will be assigned for homework that is not submitted. This zero will be changed to an earned grade once the homework is submitted and graded. However, one letter grade will be subtracted from the earned grade as a late submission penalty. Homework that is submitted more than two weeks late will have two letter grades subtracted from the earned grade. Homework maybe made up anytime during the grading period but all assignments must be submitted the week before exams begin.

**Any assignment maybe made up** provided the assignment is submitted the week before exams begin. **Any grade may be improved by resubmitting a corrected copy of the work or retesting**. The student may have a “re-do” as times as they desire (exception: late assignments are subject to a one letter grade penalty if submitted less than two weeks late and a two letter grade penalty if submitted more than two weeks late).

I am looking forward to working with you. Let’s all have a great school year.

Sincerely,

D. Bloomenstiel