**John Ehret High School** August 8, 2013

4300 Patriot St.

Marrero, LA 70072

(504)340-7651

**Chemistry, Honors**

Instructor: Mr. D. Bloomenstiel, Room 258

My name is Don Bloomenstiel (pronounced: blue-men-steel) and I would like to welcome you to the 2013-2014 school year at John Ehret. 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 you. Chemistry and physics are the building blocks of the universe and life itself. By participating in my chemistry course you are taking the first steps of a voyage to view nature’s grand scheme. It is my desire that you find the sights along this voyage to be so captivating that you will want to continue this voyage the rest of your lives. The journey is not always an easy one. New and difficult terrain must be traversed. As your teacher and guide, I hope to make the voyage an informative and inspiring journey into the realm of chemistry and the natural world.

**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

**Lab Supplies**

A laboratory experience is an important part of your learning experience. Lab activities involve supplies that are consumed during the activity and are constantly in need of replenishment such as chemicals and disposable Latex gloves. Also, a certain amount of breakage of equipment is unavoidable and these items need to be replaced. Therefore we are requiring that each chemistry student pay for $10 of lab supplies.

***Please be aware that John Ehret High School will seek reimbursement for items that are willfully and purposely destroyed by students (such as faucets, gas valves and other lab equipment) and items that are not returned that have been assigned to your care such as computers, probes, data collection devices, and other electronic devices.***

**Textbook**

The assigned textbook is Pearson Chemistry. The replacement cost of this textbook is $91.00. 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. Please contact me anytime with any concern you may have. My free period and conference time is scheduled for third period. 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. You 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 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 until a grade of A is achieved (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).

**Classroom rules**

1. Only one person, whether it is teacher or student, can address the class.
2. Only leave your seat during an appropriate time and with teacher’s permission.
3. Follow all the teachers’ instructions immediately (critical during lab work).
4. Be respectful to the teacher and all students.
5. No eating in the classroom.
6. Use of cell phones or other electronic devices (other than a calculator) is prohibited.
7. Teacher’s desk and lab table are off limits to students.

**Consequences for rule breaking:**

**Failure to follow class rules, policies or procedures may result in any of the following:**

* Student-Teacher conference
* *Teacher assigned detention and/or detention report - Parent signature required.*
* Parent conference (phone or formal) and/or
* referral to discipline

**Class detentions are scheduled at the convenience of the teacher at lunch. Infractions of school rules or habitual class rules will be referred to Discipline Office.**

**Restroom Policy**

* No restroom passes are given the first or last 10 minutes of a class, nor after 2:15pm.
* One restroom pass per week will be given unless you bring a note from home or a doctor.

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

Sincerely,

D. Bloomenstiel