CHEMISTRY PARENT LETTER

Please save for future reference

September 4, 2014

Dear Parent and/or Guardian,

Welcome back to High School for Global Citizenship for the 2014-2015 school year. I hope this letter finds you well and that you and your family had an enjoyable and safe summer. My name is Ms. Francois and I will be your student’s Chemistry teacher. Chemistry is an extremely important course as it is a class that incorporates skills from all content areas: science, math, English, and even a little bit of history. It is a class that many people often fear because it is something so unfamiliar to them. However, your child should have no fear! Yes, Chemistry is like a new language. However, once you learn the basics, you have something to build upon. It is by far one of the most interesting subjects as “Chemistry doesn’t just matter; it is matter.” Everything in the world is made up of matter: buildings, food, electronics, anything and everything you can think of. We will be looking deeply into what we observe by investigating what happens at the tiniest level possible.

Ever wonder why water turns into ice? What are you actually eating? Why certain chemicals burn your skin? This is where these questions are answered. I hope your student not only comes a way not only with a deeper knowledge and love of Chemistry but also certain life skills such as organization and self responsibility and increased ability to articulate his/her thoughts in written and spoken form. Students will gain skills and knowledge that they will use in high school, college, and in their daily lives. I have been looking forward to meeting your child, and I am excited for a year full of successes and excitement.

My particular style of teaching is based on: high expectations for *EVERY* student, respect for all students and expecting respect in return, consistency, a structured yet enjoyable learning environment, hard work from both the student and teacher and clarity. There should be no surprises.

I am very much looking forward to working with you. It is my hope to talk with the parents and/or guardians of all those in my classes. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me at school or via email. Please also check out the classroom website so you are fully aware of what is going on in the classroom:

Phone: (718) 230-6300 Email: pfrancois@hs-gc.org Class Website: **msfrancoischem.weebly.com**

To help your child succeed in my challenging science class, there are five simple things that you can do:

1. **PROGRESS REPORTS**—Ask your student to see their Unit Trackers. Throughout the unit, students will track their mastery of objectives on quizzes and exams. Please sign them and return them to school with the student.
2. **STUDY AT HOME**—Make sure that your student studies each night for at least 20 minutes. Students will have 15-20 minutes of homework every night as they will mostly likely have classwork to finish at home daily along with a reflection sheet. There will be a weekly review set that will take 15-20 minutes. There will also be a quiz given every week on Fridays. This is a class that requires A LOT of memorization.
3. **STUDY SESSIONS**—Encourage your student to attend my after school tutoring sessions and test review sessions to be announced. Students who attend my *free* tutoring sessions usually have much higher grades in my class.
4. **ENCOURAGE**—Encourage your student to ask questions in class and come in for extra help when they need it. Also, praise them for doing well…they deserve it!
5. **SIGN-UP FOR CLASS UPDATES**— To keep everyone aware of due dates for assignments, exams, and project, I have set up a text message service where I will send regular reminders. Please subscribe to his service. You will be fully aware of what is going on and your child will receive extra credit for this on the first quiz..

To help me serve your student better, I would be grateful if you could take five minutes out of your busy day and complete the parent survey. Please also look over the Syllabus Pamphlet with all necessary class information or look at the class website so you are aware of expectations and how my classes is graded. Please have your student return the Parent Survey and Course contract to me signed by both you and your child as their first homework assignment. I look forward to working with you and your student!

All the best,

Ms. Francois, *Chemistry Teacher at High School for Global Citizenship*