

Mr. Sweeten's Classroom & Course Expectations for PlanEx-A

Procedures and Expectations

The student will be responsible for:

1. ...respecting his/her classmates. If your self esteem comes from entertaining others at someone's expense, it will not fly here.
2. ...arriving on time. **With a 3rd lateness, you will be "written up" and referred to your house office.**
3. ...bringing your textbook (when announced), **notebook, a pen and a pencil.** Your notebook should include a three ring binder to take advantage of the hole punches in the back of the room.
4. ...understanding that **class is dismissed by me, not the bell.**
5. ...keeping your textbook covered throughout the year. This is not a game I will play long. **You will lose 2 points for each day I see your book uncovered in class.**
6. ...attending this class. **If you cut my class, you are NOT entitled to make up the test, quiz, or work that was collected or assigned that day. Instead, you will receive a zero.** Our computer-based attendance system makes it fairly easy for me and your house office to discover your cuts. *Also, keep in mind that more than 12 unexcused absences keeps you from receiving credit for this class!!!*
7. ...understanding that tests will be announced at least 2 full days in advance. You will usually be warned of quizzes at least 1 day ahead of time **though some will be unannounced.**
8. ...realizing that **that a grade level worth of points will be deducted for each day of lateness for all assignments.** *Work will not be accepted once it has been graded and returned to the rest of the class.* While most work will be returned to you soon after it is handed in and graded, some will be kept on file to be returned later or made available at an appropriate time before an upcoming exam.
9. ...seeing me IMMEDIATELY upon your return to find out what you missed during absences.
 - A) **If you miss a test or quiz:**
...for which we have only reviewed during your absence, **you will be expected to take it THE DAY YOU RETURN!!!**
...which will include NEW material you missed during your absence, you will have **at least** as many days as you were absent before you need to take it.
 - B) Together, you and I will determine when in the day **OUTSIDE OF REGULAR CLASS TIME** you will make up other work.
 - C) Missed laboratory work must be made up **within one week outside of class time.**
 - D) Lengthy absences will require special arrangements. **It is an excellent idea to get the number or email address of a reliable classmate who can keep you informed during absences.**
10. ...applying himself/herself to the best of his/her ability.
11. ...following all guidelines of laboratory safety procedures.

Understand that I will **NOT "hold your hand"** through this course by reminding you daily of assignments that have not been completed. *If you wish to be treated as an adult, be one.*

Mr. Sweeten will be responsible for:

- ...identifying the "learning style" strengths and weaknesses of all students to help him design activities that will optimize learning for all and also to create task variety throughout the year.
- ...giving appropriate feedback on student performance in a timely way.
- ...providing an atmosphere of academic inquiry so that as we learn about the physical work, "ah ha" moments happen as often as possible. (Mr. Sweeten will work hard to make it clear he loves teaching and creating "ah ha" moments.)
- ...making certain students have the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned in an interesting variety of individual and group work formats.
- ...giving students appropriate time to make up missed work (see #9 above).
- ...providing students with extra help before, during or after school any day possible when needed.
- ...providing students with these course expectations, a course content outline and other important information online at <http://www.chlive.org/ssweeten/planex.htm>.

More about Mr. Sweeten

1986 graduate of Clearview Regional High School – Mullica Hill, NJ

1990 graduate of Rutgers College (Rutgers University) – New Brunswick, NJ

Bachelor's Degree – Physics/Sociology

Currently completing Master's Degree of Ed. – Curriculum & Instruction Technology

Assessments

The student will be evaluated in the following ways, using a “total points” grading method:

<u>Task Type</u>	<u>Point Value</u>
Performance Assessments: Labs, Presentations, Projects, etc.	5-70
Classwork/Homework	5-20
Quizzes	30-70
Tests	100

Labs and classwork will often include hands-on activities in which careful observations, precise measurements and conscientious record-keeping will be necessary in order to achieve *accurate* results and conclusions which will influence the grade you receive. Provided the student has *given reasonable effort*, students will be given the opportunity to reassess tasks in order *to achieve a satisfactory grade*. (Please see accompanying details on my lab grading rubric and my reassessment policy.)

NJ standards met by this course are denoted in an accompanying course outline. These expectations, the outline and other useful course information are available at all times at

<http://www.chlive.org/ssweeten/planex.htm>.

“The only stupid questions are the ones you never ask.” -Mr. Sweeten

If you or your parents ever wish to contact me from home or work, I will respond quickest to emails which should be sent to MrSweeten@comcast.net or SSweeten@chclc.org.

Otherwise, leave a message in my voice mailbox at West at 663-8006, extension 1924 *but please understand that email is by far the best way to go for an immediate response*. If you leave a message in my voice mailbox, please try to let me know by email.

Don't forget that useful class information and resources can always be found at my web site at <http://www.chlive.org/ssweeten>.

Your signature

A parent's/guardian's signature