# How to get an “A” in Chemistry

Ms. DeCoster

# Hints, Tips and Tricks for you to succeed…

* Come to class prepared, on time and ready to participate productively. We all have bad days … try to remember that you are part of lab group that depends on you so give each class your best.
* Ask questions, questions and a few more questions. Some questions will be answered directly by myself or another student. Some questions will not be on the topic we are on but will be placed on a “parking lot” sheet so we can come back to them when the time is right. Finally, some questions need to be figured out on your own – but don’t worry you will be directed toward many resources to help you find the answer.
* Keep up with your assignments – especially your Science Journal and Portfolio. See my website at <http://teacherweb.com/CT/StamfordHighschool/DeCoster> for a detailed description of these assignments. You will determine your own grade by how you use your time and organize your tasks. I will give you many tools, including a quarter grading sheet, to help do these tasks but only you can actually do them.
* **Don’t get discouraged!** Come in for extra help or ask a friend if you are confused or need more practice in topic. Look at your list of “key concepts” for each chapter and review your vocabulary daily. It is not the amount of time that you study for chemistry but how frequently you do so.
* Use your Personal Plan for Success as a real road map to help you get to where you want to go. We will be reviewing your personal plan together on a regular basis when you review your portfolio and fill out your reflection sheets. Be sure to stay on your plan and be honest with yourself when you reflect on your successes and challenges.
* **Work hard – and then a little harder. You are the one that will benefit from what you learn in this class!** Effort is the only way any of us get to where we want to go and usually it requires a lot of effort. I will be there to help you and the class is set up as a support network of learners. Find a friend in the class and trade e-mail and/or phone #s. **Don’t try to get through Chemistry by yourself – reach out to other people to support you!** Form a study group, find a study partner or have someone else read your work before you turn it in.

## You can succeed! Make a plan and stick to it! I am here to help!