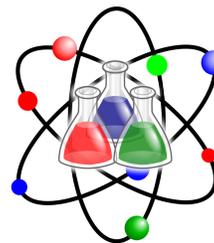


Mountain Ridge High School
Course Syllabus
Chemistry



Course Information

1 credit
Full year course
Class location: E214

Teacher Information

Ms. Backus
Phone: 623-376-3164
Email: hailey.backus@dvusd.org

Course Description:

This course is designed to help students gain an understanding of general chemistry concepts in order to apply them to the world around them. This course is aligned with district, state, and national standards to support school-wide efforts in increasing student achievement.

Materials:

- ❖ Notebook
- ❖ Pencil
- ❖ Scientific calculator (optional)

Course Objectives:

By the time the students complete this course of study, the student will:

1. Have enhanced study and test taking skills.
2. Have an increased appreciation of the world around us.
3. Have developed critical thinking skills.
4. Be prepared for college level courses in science.

In addition to the course objectives listed above, the following College and Career Ready Anchor Standards for Writing are also embedded;

- ❖ Standard 1 - Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
- ❖ Standard 2 - Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
- ❖ Standard 9 - Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Classroom Rules and Consequences:

1. Follow directions the first time
2. Be respectful of peers and their property
3. Use appropriate language and behavior
4. Be on time and prepared for class
5. Be an active learner

Failure to follow classroom rules will result in disciplinary action:

1. Verbal warning
2. Conference with teacher
3. After school detention and parent phone call
4. Referral

Cell Phone and Headphone Policy:

Cell phones are not permitted to be used in the classroom under any circumstances. They must be put away and unable to be seen at all times. If a cell phone is being used the first offense will result in a warning. For the second offense, it is in the teacher's discretion to contact conduct to have it confiscated. This same policy applies to any headphones (airpods, beats, etc).

Cheating:

There is zero-tolerance for cheating or plagiarism. If a student is caught cheating, *all* students involved will receive both a zero and a referral. This includes sharing/exchanging answers on any class work. During test taking, if a student is observed to be talking during a test, for any reason and to any student, *all* students involved will receive a zero.

Grades:

Grading scale
A = 100 - 90%
B = 89 - 80%
C = 79 - 70%
D = 69 - 60%
F = 59 - 0%

Grades are weighted as follows: 20% Coursework - (10% Labs and projects) - (10% Homework & assignments) 80% Assessments <i>** there is no extra credit **</i>
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Homework:

Mountain Ridge students have within the current unit of study to turn in assigned work for full credit, as determined by the teacher, level, and department on campus. The length of the unit of study and due dates will be clearly communicated to students by the teacher. Any assignment less than a week old at the end of a unit will have a one-week submission period. Homework is collected (via Canvas) by 7:30am. After that, all missing assignments will receive a 0.

Latework:

All work must be submitted by the end of the unit. Late work *must be hand-written* in order to be eligible for submission. I will not accept late work that is not handwritten. You will only have three opportunities to turn in handwritten late work. The fourth offense will result in having to come into the classroom outside of the general class time (e.g. Acaprep) to hand write a late assignment.

Classwork:

There will be times where students will be allowed to work in small groups, or individually, on assignments. However, it must be noted that this is *not free time*. The expectation is that students will need to be working on the given assignment during this time. If there are distractions and being reminded repeatedly to stay on task, you will receive a zero for that assignment. If the class, as a whole, cannot stay on task this portion of the class will be cut out and all assignments will be completed solely at home.

Tests and Quizzes:

Tests will always be announced at least 2 days prior. There will be periodic quizzes that cover concepts that have been taught during the week. The objective of these quizzes are to assess essential concepts needed to be successful. These quizzes will be included in the “Assessment” category of the grading scale.

Test Retakes:

After receiving an exam grade, the *student* will have five days to contact the instructor to do a test-retake. I will not be individually contacting students to ask if they want to do a test retake - please be aware it is your responsibility to keep track of your grades. In order to be eligible for a test retake, a student must meet the following criteria: all work must have been turned in, received an 85% or higher on a reassessment quiz, attended Acaprep, and have contacted the instructor within five days of receiving exam grade. The highest of the two scores will be taken, and only one retake will be permitted.

Absences:

After an absence, a student has one school day for each day missed to make up work/tests, regardless of the number of days absent. If many days were missed, please schedule an appointment to formulate a plan for the completion of make-up work. Make-up work for extended absences (over 3 days) may be requested through the Counseling Office and picked up there.

Academic Assistance:

In addition to the Academic Prep times built into our schedule each week, additional assistance/tutoring is provided on a weekly basis both by MRHS and individually by instructors. Those dates and times will be posted in the classroom at the start of each week.

Power Schools On-line Access:

Grades and attendance may be accessed 24 hours a day online with your PowerSchool access code. Access codes are available in the Counseling Office or Front Desk Monday – Friday 7:00 AM– 3:30 PM. You may check student progress regularly on the PowerSchool site using the same login for one or more students. For Mountain Ridge parents/guardians without home computer access, a computer with guest log-in capability is available in the Counseling Conference Room.

Daily Device Use (iPads):

Students should come to school with their iPads charged and updated to the latest IOS in order to be ready to use in class every day. Devices may not be used to record or take photos of other people without their consent. Consequences for classroom disruptions and misuse of devices will follow a progressive discipline model, beginning with a phone call home and progressing to office referrals for repeated or more serious offenses. See the Student Rights and Responsibilities consequence chart in the handbook for more specific descriptions of infractions and consequences.

Calculator Policy:

A *scientific* calculator will be used frequently in this chemistry course. Examples of acceptable scientific calculators are Texas Instruments (TI) TI-30XIIS or TI-30XS. However, if a student does not have a scientific calculator, they are welcome to use the class set of calculators; with the understanding they are

responsible for any damages and/or the calculator must be returned at the end of the class period. During tests or quizzes no personal calculators will be permitted.

***Cell phones may not be substituted for calculators during class work ***

Laboratory:

- ❖ Correct lab procedure will be explained before each lab and students *must* follow the lab safety rules reviewed at the start of the semester
- ❖ Breakage policy: see attached paper.
- ❖ Horseplay will not be tolerated. Students will be asked to leave the lab and will not receive credit.
- ❖ NO water bottles will be allowed in the lab.
- ❖ No food, drinks, or candy are allowed in the classroom. Only CLEAR water bottles with CLEAR water will be allowed.
- ❖ ABSOLUTELY NO HATS IN THE CLASSROOM. Hats will be confiscated if students wear them in class

MRHS Laboratory Breakage Policy:

The Mountain Ridge Science Department has a policy regarding the damage or breakage of laboratory equipment. In the event a student breaks any laboratory materials, that student will be responsible for paying the replacement cost of each item. A complete list of all laboratory materials and their costs are posted in each classroom. The students are taught proper procedures and laboratory etiquette to ensure the safety of our students during lab activities. This policy helps hold the students accountable for their actions and reinforces careful laboratory procedures.

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Report Cards:

In an effort to conserve resources and harness the capacity of our electronic grade reporting program (PowerSchool) district schools will no longer print hard copies of report cards unless requested by individual parents. To request a hard copy of your student's report card, please contact the front office at 623-376-3000. To receive your PowerSchool login, please stop into the office with a valid photo ID.

AI Statement:

In Deer Valley Unified School District, we are committed to providing our students with the best possible education while ensuring their safety, privacy, and well-being. As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance learning experiences, we may incorporate the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the classroom for students. However, it is important to approach this technology with caution and adhere to responsible data privacy practices. DVUSD has determined that the use of Large Language Models (LLMs), such as ChatGPT, is prohibited (considered cheating) unless clearly specified by your teacher. Specific guidelines will be provided in the assignment details. If you are unsure if the tool or website you are using is an

LLM or if it is permitted on a specific assignment, please contact your teacher before submitting your work.

Tips for Success:

Organization, planning, and studying are vital for student success in this course. Procrastinating assignments defeats the overall purpose of them. The goal of assignments is to expose students to concepts to help practice and strengthen their understanding. Completing them in a timely manner is ideal to receive tips and feedback for success. Be aware of due dates and *create a plan* on when assignments need to be worked on. Keep track of all assignments handed out and do not lose them - keep everything stored in a folder to *stay organized*. Homework is a part of *studying*! It is given out for a purpose, please complete it so you can be prepared for problems that may appear on exams.



The Deer Valley Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. For any inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies contact the Superintendent's Department, 20402 N. 15th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85027. (623) 445-5000.