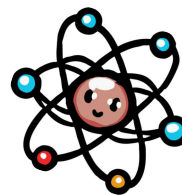


Welcome to Chemistry!

2025-2026 Semester I Syllabus



Welcome Note

Get ready to explore the building blocks of everything! In this course, we'll uncover what matter is made of, how atoms behave, and why chemical reactions happen (spoiler: things might fizz, pop, or glow ✨). You'll learn to read the periodic table like a pro, mix up some safe chemical reactions, and see how chemistry is connected to cooking, cleaning, space travel, and even your favorite snacks. Whether you're dreaming of being a scientist or just want to know what's in your soda, this class will open your eyes to the hidden science of the world around you!

Contact Information

Email: fcorcoran@ldisd.net

Phone: 940-497-4031

Conference Period: 6th Period, 12:35-1:20pm

Best Way to Reach Me: Email is by far the easiest and quickest way to reach me!

Course Description

The Chemistry course is designed for students to conduct laboratory investigations, apply scientific methods, and use critical thinking and problem-solving skills to make informed decisions. Students in Chemistry will study a variety of topics, including but not limited to the properties of matter, atomic structure, the periodic table, chemical bonding, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, gas laws, solutions, and energy changes in chemical processes.

Class Expectations

- 1) **Safe** - be safe by following classroom and lab procedures
- 2) **Ownership** - take ownership of your actions
- 3) **Attitude** - remain positive by having a good attitude
- 4) **Responsible** - be responsible for your education and surrounding
- 5) **Respectful** - be respectful to yourself and others

Classroom Supplies

Most of the supplies that you will need for this course will be available in the classroom. However, you will need to bring a pencil or pen to each class as well as something to take notes on. A dedicated notebook or binder for chemistry will work best.

Grading Policy

In compliance with the updated grading policy for 25-26,

Minor Grades - 60% of grade

(Class Activities, Labs, Practice Work)

Major Grades - 40% of grade

(Exams, Portfolios, Projects)

Please refer to the student handbook for information regarding late work, missed work, and retesting policies.

Daily Work & Homework

There will be various daily activities entered into skyward as Minor Grades, which account for 60% of your overall grade. This includes class activities, labs, worksheets, quizzes, homework and any other assignments assigned.

IMPORTANT: If you happen to turn in late work, you must email me to let me know that you have turned it in. This is how I will grade it in a timely manner. If you do not email me, I will not be notified that you completed it. This is YOUR responsibility.

Exams & Projects

Major grades will be a mixture of exams and projects that will be administered during each unit. Exams will consist of 75% multiple choice questions and 25% free response questions. Exams and projects will account for 40% of your overall grade, as per the LDISD grading policy. Exams **are** open-note. You must use your own hand-written notes during each exam.

Open-note exam corrections will be allowed after each exam, but may **ONLY** be completed during my tutorials (NOT during my class period!). Exams will not be returned to you to keep, and will only be returned for you to review during my tutorials. Your graded exam and corrections will not leave my classroom, and you will not be permitted to use your phone while working on exam corrections. Exam corrections will earn 50% of the missed points back (so, for example, if you earned a raw score of 60 on the test and submit corrections for missed questions, you may earn an amended exam score of 80). There is no minimum or maximum requirement for exam corrections. If you received a raw 95 and want to amend to 97.5-98, you are free to do so. Exam corrections must be completed within 10 days of when the grade is posted in Skyward.

IMPORTANT: If you miss a scheduled exam, you MUST email me to schedule a time to come in (preferably after school so that you may have your fully allotted 45 minute test time) to make up the exam.

Labs

We are very proud of our school. In an effort to maintain safety, lab quality and classroom decorum I will not tolerate horseplay, vandalism, equipment abuse or tampering with emergency equipment. This also includes any tampering with the school's issued iPad. Science equipment or material use is purposefully determined by the teacher and is not allowed outside of the classroom. A fee or full replacement of damaged, broken, or missing equipment may result along with an office referral.

****Any fighting, purposeful harm to a student or inappropriate behavior that causes a safety concern will result in immediate removal from the lab, which results in a referral and possible loss of participation in upcoming labs.**

Academic Dishonesty

Cheating undermines both the cheater and class morale. Avoid doing yourself this disservice: it carries heavy consequences. Please see the Student Handbook to find more information about academic dishonesty.

Cell Phone, Smart Watches, & Airpods

Per HB1481, use of cell phones and all other personal communication devices are prohibited during the course of the school day. This includes airpods. The district's and state's policy regarding cell phones, smart watches, and airpods will be followed in my classroom.

Semester I Overview

	Topics Covered	TEKS	Overview
Unit 0	The Process of Science	1.A, 1.B, 1.H, 1.G, 2.A, 2.B, 2.D, 3.C, 3.D, 4.A, 4.B	Students explore the nature of science by defining scientific inquiry, examining how investigations have evolved, and distinguishing between hypotheses and theories.
Unit 1	Introduction to Chemistry	1.E, 1.F, 1.G, 2.B, 2.C	Students collect, organize, analyze quantitative and qualitative data. Use lab reports, diagrams, charts and other statistical features to recognize patterns, sources of error and limitations.
Unit 2	The Nature of Matter	5.A, 8.C, 9.A, 10.A, 11.B	Students learn how the Periodic Table developed based on physical and chemical properties, calculate percent composition of compounds, and interpret, write, and balance chemical equations. They also distinguish between chemical reactions, mixtures, and solutions.
Unit 3	The Structure of the Atom	6.A, 6.B, 6.C, 7.A, 7.B, 7.C	Students explore the development of modern atomic theory by modeling key discoveries from scientists like Dalton, Thomson, Rutherford, and Bohr.

Unit 4	Electrons in the Atom	6.A, 6.B, 6.C, 6.E	Students describe the structure of atoms and ions, including subatomic particles, mass, and charge. They use electron configurations and Lewis Dot structures to show electron arrangement and investigate the electromagnetic spectrum to understand energy quantization in emission.
Unit 5	Periodic Table and Periodic Law	5.A, 5.B, 5.C	Students examine the development of the Periodic Table and use it to predict properties of chemical families. They analyze and interpret data to understand trends such as atomic radius, mass, electronegativity, ionization energy, and reactivity.

PLEASE CUT AND RETURN THIS SHEET SIGNED, VERIFYING YOU HAVE READ THE SYLLABUS FOR 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR .

Name Student (print): _____ **Class Period:** _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

(THIS PAGE IS WORTH 50% OF YOUR FIRST GRADE.)