

General Expectations

AP Chemistry is a second-year course designed to give the student the experience of a college level general chemistry course and to prepare the student to take the AP Chemistry exam in May. Students are expected to actively participate in class and lab, working together cooperatively with a high degree of respect for each other. You will soon discover that one of the major themes in my teaching is student accountability. You are responsible for making the most of your own education and that of your fellow classmates. Any behavior that disrupts the working environment, infringes upon the rights of another or is considered unsafe will not be tolerated. If you work hard and apply yourself, you will have a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

Summer Assignment

There is a summer assignment for AP Chem that will be posted through Google Classroom in mid-July. **Please reach out to Ms. MC or Dr. Vela if you have added the class over the summer or if you did not receive an email.** The summer assignment is an important introduction to the course and, when taken seriously, makes the beginning of the year go more smoothly. *Note that there will be a quiz on naming and formula writing on the second day of school and a test on some of the summer work on the third or fourth day of school.*

General Class Behavior

You are expected to be engaged in the classwork of the day and collaborating with your classmates. The following are designed to create a group learning environment in which students are fully present and collaborative.

- Arrive to class *on time* and *prepared to participate*.
- Listen and respond courteously to the speaker.
- Demonstrate respect for your classmates at all times.
- Follow the safety guidelines for lab behavior.
- Respect the property and materials belonging to others.
- Cell phones – all cell phones will be **silenced and placed in the Cell Phone Caddy** at the back of the room as you enter class. Failure to place your cell phone in the Caddy may result in a detention if you have repeatedly claimed to have left your phone somewhere else (in another class, at home, in your car, etc.).
- Laptops are to be used for chemistry work only and headphones will **only** be allowed if there is chemistry content with an audio component.

Materials

- Textbook: Chemistry and Chemical Reactivity, 10th edition, by Kotz, Treichel and Townsend.
- Lab Notebook- bound, carbon copy - purchase directly for the Science Department for \$12.00 at the start of school. You are expected to bring the same notebook to lab each week.
- Pen (regular blue or black ink) or Pencil – **for all graded work** – not negotiable.
- Scientific Calculator – a simple, \$10, scientific calculator is all you need, **but certain graphing calculators are allowed by the College Board**. You may be asked to switch calculators on test days and/or show that you have cleared the memory.

Homework

The College Board expects **5 hours of independent study per week**. Homework will be checked on a regular basis because it has a significant affect on your ability to understand Chemistry – the best

policy is *just do it!* You will be assigned homework almost every night and the work should reflect your best effort – it is the only way to be prepared for class.

Make-Up

We are available for extra-help and make-up work by appointment during some free periods, as well as some days before and after school. It is your responsibility to schedule an appointment. Whenever you are aware of an upcoming absence, you should negotiate your make-up time in advance of your absence. Please note that Lab work can usually only be made up before or after school or on a Flex Block. It is your responsibility to find out what work you have missed and to get necessary worksheets. Students with an excused absence(s) are expected to make-up all missed work within the same number of days as the absence. For example: 2 days out = make up within 2 days. Students with an unexcused absence will receive a zero on any assignments missed - this includes tests, quizzes, and labs. If you are absent for one day and it is the day of a test or quiz, you will be expected to take the test or quiz the next day. If you miss only the class period in which the test is given, but are in school, you will be expected to try to take the test or quiz that same day.

Grading

Your quarterly grade will be calculated using a running total of points within each category. The breakdown of your quarterly grade is as follows:

- Tests and Quizzes 85%
- Labs and online activities 15%

Each quarter will count as 20 % of your overall grade and the mid-year and final exams will count as 10 % each. Any student who takes the AP Exam will be exempt from the final exam.

Retake Policy:

You may retake tests during the quarter. The retake is usually a different version of the test. Only one retake will count toward your quarterly average. Both the original score and the retake score will count toward your quarter grade. Retakes should be done within one week of receiving back the test. Remember, your grade is in your control to a certain degree- if you work hard, you can earn higher grades.

We strongly encourage you to ask questions about anything that you do not understand - be it part of the homework, class work, labs, tests or quizzes. Do not wait until the day before a test to get extra help - it is better to take care of any problems as they come up. It is best that you ask questions during class time, but please feel free to schedule an appointment for one-on-one help if you feel you need it. You can always try to catch us before school or class if you have struggled on homework problems - sometimes all it takes is a minute to clear things up.

Pacing:

Our main goal is to get students to engage in a college level of problem solving and critical thinking. However, one of the goals is also to prepare students for the AP exam in May. Please be aware that we feel obligated to cover all the material that could appear on the exam. We have much to cover in a relatively short amount of time and therefore must adhere to a strict pacing guide. If you had chemistry two years ago or have come from Enriched Chemistry, you may find that you don't remember a topic well or perhaps have never see it at all. Please take the initiative to come for help BEFORE we introduce it in class. We welcome it!

Conferences

If there are problems which develop that are hindering your progress in this course, we encourage you to seek us out for an informal discussion to come up with strategies to improve your progress and

experience in chemistry. If needed, we will meet together with your parents to have an open discussion to help support your work.