Chemistry Syllabus
Central High School



Instructor: Addie Embry
Room Number: Tucker 111
Conference: 11:47am- 12:36pm (4th period)
Email: addie.embry@saisd.org
Tutorial Times:

- Tues/Thurs before School in Tucker 111
- Tues/Thurs after School in Tucker 111
- Tues/Wed/Thurs during Bobcat Block in Tucker 111

About Me:

I teach Anatomy & Physiology, Medical Microbiology, and Chemistry at Central High School this year (2026-2027). I began teaching six years ago in San Antonio, Texas, in 2021, where I taught at East Central High School in ECISD. I moved to San Angelo to be close to family in 2023 and began teaching at CHS. I have taught Biology, Chemistry, AP Biology, Earth and Space Science, and Plant and Soil Science in previous years. Before I became a teacher, I worked as a research scientist after earning a Ph.D. at the Health Science Center at San Antonio. During my career, I studied poxviruses, virus use as vaccines, glomerular kidney disease, and mRNA splicing mechanisms. I became a teacher because I found myself loving the art of teaching and working with students in the classroom and in the lab. In 2021, I earned my Masters in the Art of Teaching at Trinity University and began teaching high school science. I am fortunate to share my home with two beloved cats, Leif and Maxine. Please feel free to ask me for pictures! I live close to my parents and sister. My mother taught at Bradford Elementary, and my sister teaches at Lamar Elementary. I enjoy reading, painting, horror movies, true crime, fishing, and hiking. Oh, and of course nerding out over science!

Course Information

In Chemistry, students conduct laboratory and field investigations, use scientific practices during investigations, and make informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem-solving. Students study a variety of topics that include characteristics of matter, the use of the Periodic Table, the development of atomic theory and chemical bonding, chemical stoichiometry, gas laws, solution chemistry, thermochemistry, and nuclear chemistry. Students will investigate how chemistry is an integral part of our daily lives.

- A calendar with all assignments, classroom activities, and due dates can be found in Schoology
- All materials used in class can be found in Schoology.

Grading

Grades are broken into two categories:

- 60 % Major
- 40% Minor

Late work can be accepted with the following penalties:

- -10% one day late
- -20% two days late
- -30% three days late

Work more than three days late will not be accepted.

There will be a minimum of 3 major grades and ten minor grades each nine weeks.
Chemistry-specific grading guidelines:

- Classwork may routinely count as a minor grade at the teacher's discretion. Classwork is important for practicing skills to be successful on quizzes, exams, labs, and other assignments.
- Minor grades, including classwork, quizzes, bell-ringers, do-now's, and labs, cannot be corrected or retaken for extra points.
- Labs cannot be made up if missed for any reason. An alternative assignment will be provided.
- **Projects** count as major grades. Project corrections must be turned in within one week of the original project grade posting.
- **Exams** count as major grades. Exams must be completed by the end of the class period.
- Students are offered the opportunity to retake an exam once if their grade is below an 80. Students are expected to retake exams during tutorials.
- Students are expected to keep a **binder** of their work and notes in class
    - Binder checks will count as **minor grades**
    - Binders will be submitted at the end of each 9-week grading period as a **major grade**
- Students who know they will be absent due to a school trip or planned absence should attempt to turn in work on time. Communicating needs with me before a planned absence is the best choice.
- Students have the number of days absent plus one to make up missed work (The counting begins the day the student returns to class). It is the student's responsibility to acquire and complete make-up work. Students that stay caught up in chemistry usually perform better in class.

Classwork and Homework

- All assignments can be found in **Schoology,** along with **due dates.**
- If students are **absent**, they should ***check Schoology*** to see what they missed.
    - In most cases, there will be enough information in Schoology to begin working on missing assignments.
- **Homework**
    - Work not finished in class needs to be completed at home.
    - Students who use class time wisely rarely have homework.
    - Students must spend time outside of class to practice and learn chemistry skills.
    - If students are not in class (ANY kind of absence), work they miss must be completed as homework. An absence does not excuse you from missing classwork, quizzes, exams, or projects.

Textbook

- *Texas Experience Chemistry*. SAVVAS Learning Company, LLC, 2025.
- This can be accessed through the SAVVAS app in Schoology or in Clever.
- Students will be given instructions on accessing the book during the first week of school.

Materials

Required:

One ½- inch or 1-inch three-ring binder

School-Issued Charged Chromebook

- Must be brought to class every day
- Please do not bring personal devices

Pencils

Eraser

Lined notebook paper

Colored Pencils

Scientific calculator

tissues

General Classroom Expectations

- Be on time for class
    - If you are late, you miss quite a bit of instructional time that you will need for that class period.
    - Students are expected to sign in BEFORE THEY SIT DOWN if they are late for any reason (excused or not).
    - If you are late and have a note from another teacher, counselor, or administrator, write it on the tardy sheet and put the note on my desk before you sit down.
    - If students are 1-9 minutes late, an unexcused tardy will be recorded (unless there is a note).
    - If students are 10+ minutes late, the time will be noted in the system, and an absence will be recorded.
- Bring charged school-issued **Chromebooks** daily.
    - Chromebooks should only be used for classroom assignments and other schoolwork.
    - Student activity on Chromebooks will be monitored during class.
- Either leave your **binder** in the designated space in the classroom or bring it daily.
- When you are absent, you have homework. Check Schoology and contact me through Schoology to make sure you have your assignments.
- **Phones**, **earbuds, AirPods, headphones,** and smart watches should never be visible in class. The district cell phone policy is linked at the end of this document.
- When entering class, sit in your assigned seat and begin **"Do Now"** on the screen for the day.
- **Food and Drink**
    - Never in the lab
    - No smelly food (hot food, restaurant food, for example)
    - Only covered drinks are allowed.
    - Drinks from fast food with straws- leave on the side table to prevent spills
    - Non-messy snacks ok–not entire meals
    - CLEAN UP any messes and THROW AWAY any trash
- **Pass for restroom, water, quick errands to other classes- MINGA**
    - Students may only leave the class
        - After the first 10 minutes of class
        - Before the last 10 minutes
        - At an appropriate time during class- DO NOT interrupt instruction!
        - ALWAYS let me know if you have an emergency😊
    - We will discuss how to request/make a pass during the first week of school
    - One person at a time may be out of the classroom
    - Find a friend to let you back in

AI/Plagiarism/Academic Dishonesty Policy

AI

- Unless directed otherwise, students are expected to do their own work (without using AI).
- There may be times when we use AI for appropriate assignments. When in doubt, always ask!

Plagiarism

- Sometimes, students find it difficult to understand what constitutes plagiarism.
    - Copying another person's work
    - Copying information from references/internet
    - Not citing sources
- Here is a great resource. When in doubt, ask!

Important Links:

Schoology
Clever
District Cell Phone Policy/State Law
TEKS
District Grading Policy