

CHEMISTRY:

On the simplest level, we say that chemistry is “the study of matter and the transformations it undergoes.” On a more intellectual level, we realize that chemistry can explain (or try to explain) such things as the myriad chemical reactions in the living cell, the transmission of energy by superconductors, the working of transistors, and even how the oven and drain cleaners we use in our homes function.

The study of chemistry is required for students in many other fields because it is a major unifying force among these other subjects. Chemistry is the study of matter itself. In other disciplines, particular aspects of matter or its applications are studied, but the basis for such study rests in a firm foundation in chemistry.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1. *Textbook* ~ Very often I will refer to charts, diagrams, or other related materials and having your book with you will make discussions and activities much more understandable.
2. *Lab Book* ~ There will be extensive lab work throughout the course and these activities must be in the lab book if they are to be graded. The lab book is included in the course fee.
3. *Safety Glasses* ~ The law requires students working on laboratory exercises involving heat sources, chemical reagents, and/or glassware must wear safety glasses. Safety glasses are included in the course fee and will be distributed during the first relevant laboratory exercise.
3. *Calculator* ~ Students will need a “non-graphing” scientific calculator in class daily and during tests. Graphing calculators, tablets & laptops are not acceptable for obvious reasons.
5. *Notebook* ~ Throughout the next school year you will be given many handouts. You will find it very helpful to keep a notebook for studying/organization.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT:

While in class you should have respect for yourself, the other students, classroom materials/equipment, and myself. All students are expected to participate in the planned activities during class time.

Detentions: In-school or after-school detentions are not assigned for inappropriate behavior. For each classroom infraction (especially violations of the safety contract) *up to* 10 points will be deducted from your grade. Other suitable punishments or removal from class may be assigned. Repeat problems will result in a parent-teacher conference.

Homework: Homework for each nine-week grading period is evaluated and assigned for the benefit of the student as the questions & problems on upcoming labs & tests will be very similar. You must complete 80% of your homework each grading period to receive a passing evaluation. Missing more than two homework assignments per grading period will result in failing the homework portion of your grade. Additional assignments missed will result in a reduction of up to 5% from the semester grade. Students completing all of their homework each nine weeks may be eligible earn extra credit points. If you are absent you are still responsible for the assignment. Absences such as field trips, dentist appointments, ISR, OSS, etc., where the student is aware that they will miss class ahead of time, must see me for details prior to the event. Failure to do so will result in an automatic zero for the assignment. Unexcused absences from class will automatically result in a deduction from the nine-weeks grade.

Hall Passes: All students have access to their locker and/or the restroom. Students will be allowed 2 hall passes per 9-week period at their discretion. Hall passes are not cumulative and students requiring the hall pass more than twice per nine weeks will receive a grade reduction. Under special circumstances, these guidelines may be modified.

Tardiness: For my purposes, a tardy is defined as not being in the classroom when the tone sounds.

Please ask questions! However, it would be appreciated if you do NOT ask these: 1) Did I miss anything important when I was gone? 2) If I turn this in, will it raise my grade? 3) Is there anything I can do for extra credit? 4) Do I need to know this for the test?

LABORATORY:

1. In the lab students should work in pairs or groups of three unless otherwise asked.
2. Based upon the nature of a given laboratory assignment, the amount of time needed to complete it will vary. Please pay close attention at the beginning of each lab, as its due date will be announced. Be careful with your time, many of the labs are to be **completed and written up** in a single class period.
3. Most labs are worth **10 points**. Labs handed in late will have 2 points (or 20%) deducted for each day late. Please do not be foolish, labs make up a substantial part of your grade, please hand them in.
4. Labs are designed with *safety* in mind, but students will be working with hazardous materials and expensive equipment. I expect that all safety precautions be followed at all times. **Incorrect lab procedures, unsafe behavior, or disruption of others in the lab is completely unacceptable and may result in removal from the lab and a reduction in grade.**
5. Labs should be presented in the following form:

A. *LABORATORY TITLE*

B. **INTRODUCTION:** This is where the purpose of the lab is explained; what do you intend to accomplish when the lab is completed.

C. **MATERIALS:** This is equipment used in the experiment.

D. **DATA:** Any information collected in a laboratory exercise is to be presented in an **organized** chart or table that is constructed using a *straightedge*.

E. **ANALYSIS:** Here data is analyzed in the form of **questions, graphs, or calculations**. Tables and charts are to always have the following: Title, and an appropriate axis including proper scale & labels. **Graphs should be a minimum of a third of a page in size.**

F. **CONCLUSION:** This is the most important part of the lab. **Summarize** all of the major points that you have learned or particular skills you were able to enhance. Also feel free to tell me if you liked the lab or if you think there might be a better way of doing it.

6. Cleanliness in the laboratory is important for several obvious reasons. Therefore, *individuals or groups not taking responsibility for cleaning up their area and/or sink will have their lab score deducted*. This deduction increases with each additional infraction.
7. If you are absent during a lab or know that you will be absent, you may still be required to write it up. Whenever you have missed a lab or know that you will miss a lab, always see me for details. Failure to do so will result in an automatic zero for the assignment or lab exercise.

GRADING POLICY:

Grades are assigned based on the following grading scale:

97-100: A+	87-89: B+	77-79: C+	67-69: D+
93-96: A	83-86: B	73-76: C	63-66: D
90-92: A-	80-82: B-	70-72: C-	60-62: D-