

Chemistry CP

Guidelines and Expectations

The Bromfield School

2016-2017 Academic Year

Instructor: Dr. VanderVeen

Location: Room 265

Textbook: World of Chemistry (Zumdahl, Zumdahl and DeCoste), Brooks/Cole 2013

Introduction

Chemistry is the study of the behaviors of substances and how they change. Chemistry is sometimes called the “central science” because knowledge of chemistry is vital to an understanding of biology, geology, astronomy, medicine and physics. This year, we will learn how substances are classified and explore trends in different types of materials. We will observe the interactions between substances and describe the changes that occur. We will learn how to communicate our findings to other scientists. We will become problem-solvers and scientific investigators through laboratory experiments. We ultimately will relate our observations to models of matter at the particle level, and use our knowledge to draw connections between our classwork and everyday applications of chemistry.

Key topics we will study this year include: atomic structure, nuclear chemistry, bonding, problem solving methods, chemical reactions, gases, heat changes in chemical processes, equilibrium, kinetics, acids and bases, and oxidation-reduction. Many students feel overwhelmed at first, because the material is abstract and unfamiliar. However, the material can be mastered. Here are some suggestions on how to succeed in chemistry:

- Keep up-to-date with assignments and studying. Use a planner to keep track of your work.
- Spend 30-45 minutes daily, outside of class, on homework and assignments.
- If you have questions, big or small, come in for help right away!

Ensuring Success in Chemistry: If you have a hobby or are involved in organized sports, then you already know the key to being successful in the activity: practice. In the same way you ensure success in a sport, continued practice in a course ensures that you learn well and master new skills. In order to become proficient—which is your goal—you must be actively involved in class, practice frequently (such as completing daily homework) and keeping up as new ideas are investigated or new content is introduced. Taking an active role in your learning is necessary for successful completion of this or any other course. Active involvement in class also provides you with good practice in developing a lifelong pattern of setting high expectations for yourself and exploring ways to meet those expectations.

Your instructor will encourage your development and provide you with methods of promoting success; but you must recognize that you are ultimately responsible for the quality of your achievements. Whether you're struggling with a specific topic or you're interested in further examination of a topic, there will be plenty of opportunities including online activities, extra help during study halls or after school, and supplemental materials for review.

Required Materials

Students need the following materials every day for class: a pen or pencil, a non-programmable/non-graphing calculator, a three-ring binder for recording lecture notes and for storing handouts and other materials, and a 5-subject bound notebook for chemistry use only interactive journal. Index cards are often useful! In general, textbooks may be left at home.

What to Expect

Homework (from the textbook, projects or on handouts) will be assigned daily. The assignments and test dates for each unit will be listed, along with their due dates, on assignment sheets. Quizzes and tests will be given regularly. Pop quizzes may be given at any time.

Laboratory investigations will take place periodically throughout the year. Some labs will be done as take-home assignments. For some labs, a pre-lab assignment will be part of the lab grade. Formal or informal lab reports will be due after the lab session as noted on the assignment sheet. Students will maintain an in-class portfolio, which will document student progress.

Many course materials (including labs, assignment sheets, and handouts) will be available at the class website at www.dr.vanderveen.com. Students are encouraged to check Powerschool regularly for missing assignments, etc.

Classroom Rules

Students need to be on time and prepared for class. Students are expected to be respectful of fellow classmates. Students are expected to work cooperatively with all classmates. Abusive language, in any form, will not be tolerated. No food or beverages (including gum) are allowed in class. **Graphing calculators may not be used on tests, although they may be used at other times.** In general, use of cell phones or other devices that may distract from the learning environment will not be permitted. Every minute of class time is valuable; therefore, trips to lockers and bathrooms should take place before class has started. Disruptions to the classroom will not be tolerated. Detentions will be assigned for unexcused tardiness to class.

Safety is paramount in the chemical laboratory. Since we will be spending a significant amount of time in a lab setting, all students need to understand and use safe laboratory practices. Students **MUST** follow all safety rules. Please see the handout "Safety in the Chemistry Laboratory" for a detailed discussion of lab safety rules. Students are required to sign and return the Laboratory Safety Contract before being allowed to carry out any laboratory experiments. *Any student not complying with safety rules will be removed from the lab setting and will not be allowed to return to the lab until a score of 100% is earned on a laboratory safety quiz.*

Grading

In order to give every student the opportunity to succeed in chemistry, grades will be based on total points earned. Typical point ranges:

Homework: 5-10 pts

Pop quizzes: 5-15 pts

Quizzes/Tests/Projects 20-100 pts

Homework will be checked or collected at the beginning of class, or checked online, on the date listed on the assignment sheet. Do not slip assignments under the door or place them in your instructor's mailbox! Late homework will not be accepted unless the student was absent. Homework will NOT be accepted late for unauthorized absences or missed class due to tardiness. **Late homework will not be accepted if you are in school on the day it is due.** Laboratory reports or projects turned in one day late will be given a 50% late penalty, and a late assignment form must be attached; lab reports or projects that are more than one day late will not be accepted under normal circumstances.

Missed labs must be made up within one week of the original lab date. If you are absent for a test, you are expected to make up the test the day you return. For absences of more than one day, you may have up to three days to complete missed work. However, absence is not an excuse for missing a deadline—when in doubt, turn it in early. [Refer to pp. 19-20 of the student handbook for the official policy on unauthorized absences.](#) *If extra time is granted on a test, the test must be completed on the original test date.*

If you miss class, the handouts from that day will be placed in the appropriate bin in the back of the room. **If you are in school at any time during the day, it is your responsibility to stop by room 265 or room 285 and pick up your materials before leaving.** *Students are accountable for all graded or checked assignments, and assignments not turned in will result in a grade of zero for that assignment.*

Assume, unless you are told otherwise, that work assigned outside of class is to be done **independently**. Instances of academic dishonesty will be handled as outlined on [pp. 27-28 of the student handbook](#). This includes assignment grades of zero for plagiarized work and parent notification. Please do not put yourself in the position where you could be accused of cheating. Copying someone's homework or labs, looking at someone's papers for answers are common methods of cheating. Copying any work from a text or downloading information from the internet and calling it your own by not citing the course is plagiarism. Do your own work and give credit where credit is due.

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This sheet must be signed and returned to your instructor.

I have read the course expectations and safety guidelines for Chemistry CP, as summarized below.

Classroom Expectations:

- Students will be on time.
- Students will be prepared for class.
- Students will be respectful to others in the classroom.
- Students will be involved in classroom activities.
- Students will always use safe laboratory practices.

Safety:

- No food or beverages (including gum) are allowed in class.
- No horseplay is allowed in lab.
- Students will wear appropriate clothing for laboratory experiment, as outlined in the safety handout.
- Students will follow directions carefully.
- Failure to comply with safety rules will result in the student being asked to leave the laboratory; the student will not be allowed to return to laboratory exercises until a grade of 100% is earned on a safety quiz.

Grading:

- Class grades are based on total points earned.
- Assignments are due at the beginning of class.
- Laboratory reports or projects turned in one day late will be given a 50% late penalty, and a late homework form must be attached.
- Lab reports or projects that are more than one day late will not be accepted.
- Late homework will not be accepted unless a student had an official excused absence.
- Homework will NOT be accepted late for unauthorized absences or missed class due to tardiness.
- If you are in school at any time during the day, it is your responsibility to pick up your materials.
- Absence is not an excuse for missing a deadline.
- Graphing calculators may not be used on tests.
- Students will maintain an interactive notebook and an in-class portfolio.
- Grades for assignments not turned in or made up will be recorded as zeros. Missing assignments will be noted in Powerschool.
- Students need to make up assignments, labs, tests, or quizzes missed due to absence.

I understand the expectations and requirements for this chemistry course.

Name of Student

Name of Parent/Guardian

Signature of Student

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Date