



**Pre-AP CHEMISTRY**  
**Instructor: Ricardo Mena**  
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Welcome to Chemistry! I hope you had a good summer, and you are ready to get back to schoolwork. I have an exciting and busy year planned for you. Chemistry is a fascinating subject where you will learn about the building blocks of the universe and how they combine and change to form all we see around us. The following information will help you get started. Please read through it carefully and retain for your future reference. I look forward to exploring Chemistry with you and to support your ongoing success in any way I can. Good luck!

You will need to bring to class the following supplies everyday:

**Materials:**

1. Fully Charged Laptop
2. A 1" 3 ring binder with inside pockets and 4 dividers. Labeled (Notes, Labs, DOL, Tests/Quizzes)
3. Notebook paper
4. Pencils, pens (Blue, Black and Red)

**Class Procedures:** Students will:

1. Be in their seats ready to learn on time and start working on **warm up**. Ready means with all the above materials available.
2. **1 Rule Classroom:** If what you are doing **Interferes** with learning **Hurts** someone's heart or **Prevents** you from being your best self you shouldn't be doing it.
3. Follow instructions the first time given. (Specially lab safety instructions)
4. Leave their stations neat and tidy after their class activity.
5. Only water bottles are allowed in the class area, no drink or food is allowed in the lab area.
6. Cell phones should not become a distraction in class.

**Safety**

You must thoroughly familiarize yourself with the safety and laboratory rules for your own safety and the safety of others. Safety rules and procedures will be explained and then you will take a test without notes. It is mandatory that every student gets an A on this test before being allowed to work in the lab. This class is laboratory-based, therefore Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations will be applied (see additional safety contract).

### **Consequences for Breaking Class rules and Safety Procedures**

The following procedures will be implemented upon any student departing from the known classroom rules or deviating from general, common-sense classroom expectations:

**1<sup>st</sup>** offense – Verbal warning

**2<sup>nd</sup>** offense – Conference with student

**3<sup>rd</sup>** offense – Communication with guardian

**4<sup>th</sup>** offense - parent/teacher/student/

administrator conference or written referral.

Of course, any anti-social/aggressive/threatening behavior will result in an immediate referral to the office and parents contacted.

**Grading System**: 6 week reporting period:

Exams/Projects/Labs	60%
Homework Quiz/Warm ups/Daily Assignments	40%

**End of Semester Exams**: Currently, 10% of the course grade will come from a comprehensive end of semester exam.

### **Parents:**

Parents are an important part of every student's education. All students will receive a progress report at the midpoint of each six weeks if grade falls below a 70. Students are required to bring this progress report back to me with a parent or guardian's signature. Parents it is important that you check your account on the parent portal frequently if you have any questions concerning assignments and or grades.

### **Grading policy:**

A- 90 – 100%

B- 80 – 89 %

C- 75 – 79%

D- 70 – 74%

F- Less than 70% (FAIL).

**Make up work** is your responsibility. If away on school activities be sure to get any assignments before you leave. Being on school trips etc. is not an acceptable excuse for not turning in assignments. If absent, you can check the assignment list posted on PowerSchool to see what you have missed. Ask me for any worksheets required after class. Make up work must be turned in the next time we meet for class or a zero will result unless prior arrangements are made with me.

**Re-take** If a student fails a test, he or she is allowed to remake the test. A student has 24 hours to request a redo exam from the date the exam is returned to the student. At that point in time, the student and teacher will talk and agree on a plan of action and due date for the redo.

**(All Tests will be made up in class the day the student returns to class.)**

### **Group Work**

Everyone is equally responsible. If group members are not contributing this must be communicated to the teacher **BEFORE** submitting work for grading.

**Projects** are intended to support the development of higher order thinking skills, research skills and logical reasoning (they provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate such attributes). Projects require independent work (early-stage collaboration is encouraged, so long as the end results are **YOUR OWN** work) that will enrich your understanding or appreciation for the concept area. Projects are time consuming and will require significant out of class work. Given the volume of work, students need to plan and balance the project with other work from this and other classes.

**Homework Quizzes** may be given at any time. Students should be prepared for quizzes daily, although they are usually rarely given more than once a week. Quizzes allow the teacher to ascertain the progress of the student's learning without high impact on the student's grade.

**Tutorials** will be offered and scheduled as needed.

Teacher availability (out of class):

Before school	7:30 – 7:45 am (by appointment)
During Lunchtime	Every Tuesday and Thursday in room 264
After School	3:35 – 4:30 (by appointment)
Other times	Scheduled following discussion

### **Course Objectives**

- To develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills needed to make informed decisions about issues in everyday life (to be an effective citizen).
- To learn that science is a vast body of knowledge, which is constantly evolving due to new discoveries.
- To be able to analyze problems using scientific inquiry.
- To be able to understand the nature of matter and its components.
- To be able to understand the impact of energy transformation in everyday life.
- To be able to recognize connections between the sciences (chemistry, physics and biology).
- To equip the student with the knowledge and desire to appreciate the chemistry encountered daily and intermittently during their lifetime.
- To engage the student with a vigorous chemistry syllabus that fulfills the requirements of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) in chemistry and fosters life-long learning.
- To foster the understanding of the global perspective of chemistry in society and challenges/opportunities for the future.

**Fall Semester****Course Layout (learning objectives are clearly indicated in course text and will be discussed in class).**

\*(coverage and ordering of material is subject to student progress and learning needs)

Unit	# Lessons	Topic	Cycle
1	4	Fundamental Concepts of Matter	1
2	5	The Periodic Table	
3	4	Atomic Chemistry	2
4	6	Combining Elements: Types of Bonds	
5	2	Chemical Quantities "The Mole"	
6	10	Chemical Reactions	3

**Spring Semester****Course Layout (learning objectives are clearly indicated in course text and will be discussed in class).**

\*(coverage and ordering of material is subject to the student progress and learning needs)

Unit	Chapter (Text Book)	Topic	Cycle
7	7	Stoichiometry	4
8	7	Solution Chemistry	
9	6	Acids, Bases and Reactions	5
10	6	Behavior of Gases	
11	8	Thermochemistry and Nuclear Chemistry	6
12	5	Research Project	

## Signature Sheet

Parent's comments, questions, suggestions, and participation are needed and appreciated. Please begin by signing this sheet, showing that you and your child have read and reviewed the information.

Please sign and detach from the packet, turn in as a homework assignment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### Contact Information

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