

Chemistry I

General Information

Welcome to Chemistry! Hello students and parents: I am looking forward to a wonderful year and hope you are too!

Chemistry I is an introduction to basic chemistry. This course is preparation for, and a requirement for many colleges. To be successful in this course, you need a solid math background through Algebra I (as a minimum). The concepts you will learn build on each other; therefore it is important for you to come to class on time, be prepared, **DO YOUR HOMEWORK**, and study every day. A little bit of chemistry each day will take you farther and help you learn faster (better grades too)! The following is some information on how this course will be organized.

- Main Topics:** Matter; Atomic Theory and Structure; Periodic Table; Chemical Equations and Reactions; Chemical Bonding; Energy Changes; Gas Laws; Liquids and Solids; Thermodynamics; Chemical Equilibrium, Acids and Bases
- Textbook:** The textbook for Chemistry I is *Modern Chemistry* (Holt, Rinehart and Winston). Keep this text at home and use it as a reference; we will have texts available in class if necessary.
- Website:** I will be maintaining a website for this class. This site will contain general information, assignment calendars, and other links as necessary. The address is: <http://home.gci.net/~carmenwhs/index.htm> Grades will be available through Zangle.
- Class Supplies:** Students are required to have a **3-ringed notebook** to be used for notes, homework problems, handouts, and graded papers; and a **hard-bound, quadruled (graph paper) notebook** for demonstrations and inquiries/lab investigations. The notebook and lab book must be brought to class each meeting. Notebooks and lab books will be graded periodically for organization and completeness.
- A **SCIENTIFIC CALCULATOR IS MANDATORY!** Graphing calculators in which information may be stored are NOT allowed during exams.
- Attendance/Tardy Policy:** Attendance is critical since much of what occurs in class is hands-on and cannot be duplicated at a later time. It is **your responsibility** to find out what you missed and make up any missed work promptly. Students are expected to be in class, prepared, and ready to start working when the bell rings.
- Assignment Calendars:** Bi-weekly assignment calendars will be distributed denoting the material to be covered in class as well as all homework assignments, test dates, and lab experiments. It is the students' responsibility to keep current with all class and homework assignments.
- Homework:** The key to success in Chemistry is to practice what you have learned, therefore homework will be assigned daily. You are encouraged to work with each other to learn and practice. Most homework will be given and submitted online, using the Loncapa program. No late work will be accepted for a grade, unless extenuating circumstances convince me otherwise.
- Tests and** A test will follow each unit and a final examination will be administered at the end

- Quizzes:** of the semester. Test questions will include material covered in the class notes, laboratory experiments, reading material from the textbook, and demonstrations. Quizzes will be given periodically. **Be Warned:** the final exam in the spring covers the entire year.
- Labs and Safety:** Labs are a very important part of Chemistry I. LAB SAFETY is absolutely critical. I will go over lab rules and expectations and will be sending home a Safety Contract for both students and parents to sign.
- Academic Honesty:** I will do everything I can to see that the grade received reflects the work actually done by the student. During tests and quizzes, it is the student's responsibility to BE innocent; behavior that APPEARS to be helping on a test will result in a mark of zero for the test. Cheating will NOT BE TOLERATED!
- Grading Policy:** Grades will be based on accumulated points. The grading scale will be as follows:
A = 90 – 100% of total points
B = 80 – 89%
C = 70 – 79%
D = 60 – 69%
F = 0 – 59%
- Contact Information:** My name is Carmen Olito. I always try to make time for students and parents. I usually will be in the classroom (S-6) after school and available during lunch. You may leave a message for me with the office (742-2500) or through the school district email olito_carmen@asdk12.org Be aware, though, I cannot respond to messages or emails during school hours as I am teaching and with students. I try to answer all messages after school or in the evenings.

A note about our chemistry curriculum: The chemistry teachers at West High work very well together, and have worked hard to develop a chemistry curriculum that will prepare students for college chemistry. We recently participated in a national survey comparing what students learn in high school chemistry to what college chemistry professors would like their students to know when they begin college chemistry. Our curriculum is right on target! The concepts and techniques we emphasize are those that are most important for success in college.

I have read the course description and I accept the expectations associated with Chemistry.

(student's printed name)

(student ID)

(student signature)

(date)

(parent/guardian signature)

(date)