

Diamond Bar High School

Chemistry Honors

2011-2012

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Introduction

Welcome to the wonderful world of Chemistry. Chemistry is all around us, from the air that we breathe to the water that we drink. Therefore, the purpose of a chemistry class is to learn about the world.

Our goal is to cover all the necessary material as defined in the California State standards for Chemistry, A summary of these standards can be found on the California Department of Education website.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- Calculator: scientific or graphing. Basic calculators are not acceptable. Calculators on cell phones, PDA's and other electronic devices are not acceptable. Students must have calculators with them on a daily basis.
- A binder or notebook to organize and store handouts, reference sheets and other helpful information.

GRADING POLICY

Semester Grading Scheme

70%	Tests, Quizzes & other Performance Based Assessments, Finals
15%	Labs, Hands-On Activities, Group & Individual Projects, Classroom Demos
10%	Homework and other In-Class Work
5%	Evaluation of participation and effort given in class
100%	Total

- **Students with unexcused absences can not make up any graded assignment or participation that took place during the period of unexcused absence.**

Grade Distribution

Mark	Range	Mark	Range
A+	98-100	C	74-76
A	94-97	C-	70-73
A-	90-93	D+	67-69
B+	87-89	D	64-66
B	84-86	D	60-63
B-	80-83	F	0-59
C+	77-79		

CLASS ASSESSMENTS

- Students will receive assessments in the form of quizzes, tests, projects, lab write-ups, etc.
- Unit tests are usually given after the completion of a chapter in the textbook, but the tests may include information from more than one chapter. Each test will include multiple choice and free response questions. A periodic table and reference sheet will be provided.
- In addition to the above described assessments; a comprehensive final exam will be administered at the close of each semester.

LABS

- Labs provide students with hands-on learning that promote scientific inquiry and can be very enjoyable. The scientific community is dependent on collaboration between peers. To this end, you will be working with a lab partner as you gather data in the laboratory. You will also find it very useful to work together after the lab has been completed.
- I will not tolerate any inappropriate behavior in the lab.
- Behavior that endangers the safety of others will not be tolerated.
- Lab safety will be reviewed at the beginning of the year. Students will be required to sign a safety contract that must also be endorsed by their guardians.
- Serious violations or repeat offenses in the lab will result in a zero for the lab and a referral to your GLC.
- Some labs cannot be made up if you are absent. If this is the case, you will receive an alternate assignment that you must do in order to receive an excused grade for a lab.

HOMEWORK POLICY

- Homework is a constructive tool in the learning process when geared to the needs and abilities of students. Purposeful assignments not only enhance student achievement but also develop self-discipline and associated good working habits. Homework provided will be planned and organized; will be purposeful to the students; and will be evaluated and returned to students in a timely manner. Successful homework completion and study will enable students to master chemical principles and to develop powerful problem-solving skills.
- Homework may be assigned for one or more of the following purposes:
 - Practice -- to help students to master specific skills which have been presented in class;
 - Preparation -- to help students gain the maximum benefits from future lessons;
 - Extension -- to provide students with opportunities to transfer specific skills or concepts to new situations; and
 - Creativity -- to require students to integrate many skills and concepts in order to produce original responses.

- All students should keep a portfolio of all returned assignments until after the semester grade is issued. This is your evidence to refute any errors that may arise in evaluating your grade for the class. Please contact me as soon as possible if you suspect errors in your grade.

LATE WORK POLICY

- Late work will receive a 20% reduction for each school day the assignment is late after the accepted due date.
- I will not accept any late work unless you write LATE on the top and include the date you handed the assignment in.
- Late work will not be accepted after the completion of a unit. This means no late work accepted after the administration of a unit test.

MAKE UP POLICY

Illness/Unforeseen Event

- If you are absent due to illness or some other unforeseen event, you will receive one day to make up missing assignments (homework, tests, quizzes, labs) for each day you have missed. (i.e. if you are sick for two days, you have two school days to make up missing assignments until you are caught up.)
- Any additional days past those given to make up assignments, will be treated the same as late work (see Late Work Policy above).
- Assignments will be posted using Parent Portal, Blackboard as well as my webpage.

Other Absences

- Vacations, Sporting Events, Field Trips and other Absences that require a pre-trip authorization, are not included as absences subject to the Make Up Policy. All missing assignments work must be submitted the day upon return, or it will be subject to the Late Work Policy.
- Tests or Quizzes missed while absent must be made up on the day of your return.
- If you miss an assignment that is based upon classroom participation, you may not be able to make this up. If this is the case, please talk to me about it.

TARDIES

- Tardiness is an undesirable behavior in all academic settings. Students are expected to be in their seats before the bell rings and ready to learn.
- Consequences of being tardy may be the forfeiture of taking a quiz or receiving other assignments given at the beginning of class.
- Please refer to the tardy policy outline in the Student Planner on page 19.

PARTICIPATION POINTS

- Unexcused and frequent tardies, will negatively impact your overall participation grade.
- Frequent use of the hall pass will negatively impact your overall participation grade.
- If you disrupt the learning environment in the classroom, you will first be given a warning. Additional warnings will negatively impact your overall participation grade.
- Every day you come unprepared will negatively impact your overall participation grade.

TECHNOLOGY

- Cell phones may **not** be used in any way during the class period. Any use of a cell phone will result in a referral to your GLC.
- Calculators are scientific/mathematic tools that can be very useful in the school setting. Games on calculators are, however, unacceptable. If I see games on your calculator in my class, I will clear the memory on your calculator. Repeat offenders will have their parents contacted.
- Apart from your calculator, no use of any other electronic devices in class will be permitted. This includes, but is not limited to: Gameboys (Original, Pocket, Color, Advance, Micro), Nintendo DSs, PSPs, iPods, mp3 players or other digital music/video devices, cassette players, CD players, portable DVD players, 8-track devices, record players, laptops, etc. Headphones must be put away as well. Your calculator is the one device to which you are limited. Hearing aids and pacemakers are also acceptable.

FOOD/DRINK

- No food or drink is allowed by students in class, except during class sponsored activities (food labs, parties, etc.)
- Water bottles are acceptable in class, provided they have lids and are kept out of the way.
- Absolutely no food or drink is allowed in the lab. This includes water bottles and gum as well.

GETTING HELP

- A tutoring schedule will be posted outside my classroom. This schedule lists the days and times myself as well as other Chemistry teachers are available.