Mrs. Ann Lambert
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Honors Chemistry
Course Description 2016-2017

Course Description

This course is a college prep, laboratory-oriented approach to the study of matter, its structure, composition, and changes. Laboratory work is an integral part of the student's work in chemistry.

Honors Chemistry will move at an accelerated pace with elevated expectations and is designed to prepare the student for Advanced Placement Chemistry. Due to the challenging nature of the number of topics to be covered, little classroom time will be allotted for the algebraic mechanics of the scientific calculations to be mastered. Honors students will be expected to explain and apply the material: memorization alone is not sufficient to answer most exam questions.

The course will move rapidly and there will be relatively little time allotted during class for reading the book; thus, keeping up with daily assignments is essential. Students should expect to spend *at least* **three hours per week** outside of class on reading, studying, and homework. Additional time will frequently be required to complete lab reports, papers, and projects.

Communication

Open communication with both students and parents is essential to an effective learning environment. My contact information is listed at the heading of the syllabus. Progress reports will be issued midway through each term.

Office Hours

My regular office hours are after school on Wednesdays, but I am quite flexible and am willing to meet on other days, if arranged ahead.

Required Materials

- *Your textbook.* Please keep it covered and BRING IT TO CLASS EVERY DAY.
- *A three-ring binder*, organized by unit, for storing notes, handouts, homework, quizzes, etc. IMPORTANT - your binder will be graded and a spiral notebook **will not** be accepted for credit.
- *Manila folders* for lab flow-charts.
- *A scientific calculator.* For class work and during exams – calculators will not be provided.

Grading and Course Requirements

- Exams will be given at the end of each UNIT of study (may be more than one chapter).
- Shorter quizzes will be scheduled for each chapter or major section. There may also be unannounced quizzes.
- Labs are performed to reinforce and enhance class discussions. Pre-lab exercises, including flow-charts, must be completed and checked by the day of the lab or you will not be allowed to perform the lab, resulting in a zero. While students are encouraged to discuss the lab and swap ideas, **collaboration must end before the writing of the lab report.** Late reports will be reduced ONE LETTER GRADE for each day late for up to four days past the due date.
- Homework will be assigned and checked regularly. Keeping up with your daily assignments is a **vital component** to your success in chemistry. Homework passes may be used on *daily assignments only!*
- Group work done during class is an important time for students to collaborate and build knowledge. Participation in group work will be included in the homework portion of the grade.

Your grade will be calculated as a percentage of the total number of points possible each term. You should keep track of your progress on the grade sheet I will provide that should be kept in your binder. Enrichment activities will be offered occasionally (for extra credit); therefore, you will want to keep track of your grades so you will know whether you should partake in an extra credit opportunity. **Plagiarism** will not be tolerated. While students are encouraged to discuss concepts and exchange ideas, your written work MUST be your own. This includes cheating on tests or quizzes, copying someone else's homework and/or providing your homework to someone else to copy, copying lab reports (or using someone else's lab report as a template for your own), cutting or pasting information from the internet or other sources, failing to cite sources, and in general claiming that someone else's work is not your own.

Laboratory Rules

The labs will require that students work with potentially hazardous materials. It is of paramount importance that **all** laboratory rules be followed at **all** times. Disregard for the safety rules will be grounds for removal from the class.

- Goggles and aprons must be worn while in the lab area. **Goggles are never optional - removal of goggles may result in point deductions from your lab grade.**
- It is best not to wear contacts during labs - fumes may build up behind the lenses.
- Unauthorized experiments are prohibited. Do not modify a procedure without teacher approval.
- No horseplay will be tolerated. Any student disobeying lab rules may be asked to sit out the lab and receive a zero.
- **You will only be allowed to take your flow chart and a pen or pencil into the lab area. Lab handouts, books, and jackets must be left at your desk**. Consequently, you should make sure your flow-chart has appropriate procedural notes and tables.
- Report any accident, even a minor injury, to the teacher.
- If you have long hair, pin it back immediately at the start of the lab. Long sleeves should be rolled up and loose sweaters or clothing should be avoided.
- No food, drink (including water), or gum is permitted in the lab. NEVER taste a chemical or solution or draw solutions into a pipette with your mouth.
- Read the bottle before using any chemical. Never assume you have the right one.
- Allow ample time for hot glass to cool. Remember, hot glass looks exactly like cool glass. Bathe skin burns in cool water or apply ice.
- Do not touch chemicals with your hands unless directed to do so. Wash your hands before leaving the laboratory!
- If an acid or other chemical is spilled on skin, wash it off immediately with copious amounts of cool water. Then ask your teacher what else should be done.
- Please make sure you know where the following items are located: eye wash, shower, sinks, hood, fire extinguisher, first aid kit, emergency doors.
- NEVER leave your experiment unattended, especially with a flame burning.
- Never return leftover chemicals to the source bottle.
- Know the correct procedure for mixing acid solutions. Always add the acid slowly to water. NEVER add water to acid!
- When observing the odor of a substance, do **not** hold your face directly over the container. Fan a small amount of the vapor toward your nose by sweeping your hand over the top of the container.
- Always proceed slowly and efficiently through a lab. Haste makes waste.
- Always check with the teacher about disposal of chemicals after an experiment. Not everything can be dumped down the sink or placed in the trash.
- Clean all equipment before leaving the lab. All students at a station will be held responsible for clean-up.
- Dispose of waste as directed by the teacher, and **do not place trash in the sink!**

Acceptance of Rules and Policies

We have read Mrs. Lambert's policies for Honors Chemistry and understand that the work for this class will be graded on accuracy, detail, scientific merit, and timeliness. We understand that because of the laboratory component, this course is likely to take more time than most high school courses. Lab reports and term projects will be in addition to DAILY reading assignments, review, and homework problems.

We have also read the laboratory safety rules carefully and understand that disregard for these rules cannot be permitted. Repeat or egregious offenders may be banned from the laboratory in addition to the usual disciplinary procedures.

Print Student's Name_____

_____ _____ _____

Student signature Parent/Guardian signature Date