Welcome to Chemistry (H)!
Course Syllabus
2017-2018

Instructor: Mrs. Jennifer Reisener
Room #: 812
Phone: 480-575-2504
Email: jreisener@ccusd93.org
Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday, 2:00 – 3:00 pm or by appointment.

Course Description: Chemistry is the study of matter and its changes. In this course we will be studying how atoms and molecules interact to create the diverse types of materials we see in the world. Everything around us has a basis in chemistry – the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the electronics we use, and the cars we drive are just a few examples. Chemistry provides a foundation for all other branches of science. Chemistry is also an essential tool in applied fields such as the health sciences, pharmacology, materials science, and engineering. Regardless of the career path you choose, learning chemistry will help you to become a better thinker, scholar, and citizen. Formal chemistry instruction builds skills that lead to college and career readiness.

The main topics we will be covering this year are: Laboratory Techniques and Measurement, the Scientific Method, Classification and Properties of Matter, Energy and Change, Atomic Theory, Chemical Bonding Theory, Chemical Reactions, Stoichiometry, Gases Law Chemistry, and Nuclear Chemistry.

Class work includes reading, writing, calculations, discussions, lab activities, and presentations. This class is designed to expose the college-bound student to the principles and applications of chemistry. Chemistry is a building block course; therefore, sequential concept mastery is vital for continued success. The student must be responsible, organized, and motivated. I have very high expectations for everyone in this class, and I am here to help you succeed. The only way that you will not succeed in this class is if you do not put forth genuine effort.

In the honors chemistry course, we will move at a faster pace than in the regular chemistry course. Our pace will allow us to cover more topics in more depth. Students in honors chemistry will be expected to memorize more information so that they are able to solve problems more quickly. Our problem solving will also involve a higher level of thinking than in a regular chemistry class. By choosing to be in honors, you have made the decision to go above and beyond the requirements of regular high school chemistry.

Recommended Prerequisite: While chemistry is not a math class, we often use mathematics to describe and explain the changes that occur in matter (i.e. during changes of state and chemical reactions). Therefore, it is strongly recommended that students enrolled in honors chemistry have passed Algebra 1 and 2 with grades of B or higher. Students should also have passed the 9th grade Science AIMS test. This proficiency will help to ensure student success.

Additional Help and Make-Up Hours: I am here to help you. If there are changes to my office hours, they will be posted on the front board at the beginning of the week. Once you have checked the hours of availability, it is best to make an appointment with the teacher so the materials will be ready for you when you come in. Please come to office hours prepared with your own materials and questions. You may also attend another chemistry teacher’s office hours in the event that I am unavailable.

Text/Resources Used: Chemistry: Matter and Change (Glencoe)
Internet and other relevant books and resources

Textbook should be covered and brought to class upon teacher request!
**Required Course Materials (Bring these every day!)**

- 3-ring binder (2-3”)
- Dividers (5)
- Notebook paper
- Pencils and Eraser
- Blue or Black Pens
- **Grading Pen (i.e. red or green or purple)**
- **Scientific Calculator (Non-graphing)**
- Highlighter
- **Metric Ruler**
- Set of colored markers or colored pencils

**Grading Scale:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100% to 90%</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>89% to 80%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>79% to 70%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>69% to 60%</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Below 60%</td>
<td>F</td>
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**Grade Categories and Percentages:**

Grades will be calculated based upon a weighted system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class work/Homework</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labs/Activities/Projects</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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**Assessments:**

Weekly or biweekly quizzes are given to evaluate learning and provide formal feedback. Quizzes will be announced one to three days in advance. Unannounced “pop” quizzes may also be given from time to time. Quizzes may cover any warm-ups, class work, lab work, or homework completed in the previous week or two. In addition to quizzes, exams are administered at the end of major chapters/units every three to six weeks. Exams are announced approximately one week in advance and generally consist of multiple choice and free response questions. Quizzes generally last one-half of a class period while exams last the entire class period. In the case that a student does not finish a quiz or exam, no extra time will be allotted unless the student has an individualized educational plan (IEP) or a 504 plan that specifically supports this accommodation. Both quizzes and exams are oriented towards problem solving and critical thinking. Thus, in order to succeed, a student must firmly grasp and be able to apply information and concepts learned in class. The best way to succeed on any assessment is to actively participate in class, complete the class work, and complete the homework with authentic effort. In addition, reviewing the class materials/notes for 10-15 minutes a day will greatly improve your understanding and retention of concepts. Exams are cumulative and any previously covered material is fair game. Therefore, students do not have permission to forget learned information. Ongoing preparation is the key to success in chemistry. Cramming the night before a quiz or exam does not lead to success. Students must remember to bring their non-graphing calculators to class every day. I will not loan out calculators to students who forget them on the day of a quiz or exam. Once the grade for a quiz or exam is posted, students are encouraged to come by to office hours to review their work with the teacher, especially if the score is below 70%.

**Attendance and Makeup Work:**

It is in the student’s best interest to attend class every day. Students who miss class time miss learning experiences that cannot be fully duplicated in office hours or at home. Therefore, absenteeism is strongly discouraged! Frequently absent students earn significantly lower grades than those students who are generally present in class.

Students are responsible for contacting teachers to complete missed work. Parents can e-mail teachers to request homework to pick up during a student’s absence. For every day of excused absence, a student has two days to make up homework, classwork, quizzes, and tests (parents have 24 hours to contact the school to excuse the absence). Work previously assigned or quizzes and exams previously announced with due/completion dates during an absence are to be turned in/completed on the first day of his/her return to school (including suspension dates). Be advised that each department, which assigns extended projects, has specific deadline dates. All make up work from an excused absence is eligible to receive full credit if completed and turned in within the 2 day window. Some courses such as Honors, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and Dual Enrollment courses have numerous long-term projects or portfolios, which may have absolute deadlines. Students will be advised of these project/portfolio deadlines in the course syllabus or on grading outlines and will be expected to turn in projects/portfolios prior to the designated date for credit regardless of days absent. **Assignments, tests, quizzes not completed within the 2 day window will receive a zero.** (Ref: Board Policy JH-R)
Daily assignments will be posted on the website and also on the classroom board. You are also encouraged to examine the website to learn of missed work. You can obtain missed paperwork from the teacher during office hours. When class time is missed, the student misses how the teacher explained the day’s lesson. Therefore you will also need to plan to spend extra time to meet with the teacher during office hours. Missed quizzes, exams, and labs will also need to be made up during office hours. Alternative assignments may be given for some missed assignments although the same concept will be covered.

**Tardiness:**
Tardiness to class is disrespectful and unacceptable. You are tardy if you are not in the classroom at the bell. Students are also expected to be in their seats at the bell. The potential consequences for tardiness or for not being in your seat at the bell are a teacher detention, a parent contact, or a referral to administration. Per CCUSD policy, a student may lose course credit due to excessive tardiness. Parents will be contacted for frequent absenteeism or tardiness.

**Class work/Homework:**
It is essential that students are actively participating and learning during class time. Class work may be collected at the end of the period. Daily homework assignments are designed to give students practice with concepts taught in class and to move towards mastery of those concepts. Students are expected to genuinely attempt every homework problem and show legible, written evidence of this. “I don’t get it.” is not an acceptable excuse for not attempting homework problems. Students with questions about the homework should plan to attend office hours, consult a classmate, consult the textbook, or consult the internet for additional help. Daily homework is due by and will be checked by the teacher at the beginning of class the following day. Students will use an individualized unit stamp sheet to keep track of daily homework completion. Parents are encouraged to ask their student to produce the unit stamp sheet regularly in order to confirm that the student is keeping up with his or her class work and homework. Daily homework is usually corrected in class by the student using a grading pen, but it may also be collected by the teacher and graded based on accuracy from time to time. During homework correction time, students are highly encouraged to ask questions on problems that were difficult or confusing. After correcting homework mistakes, students must also take time to go back and mentally reprocess their wrong answers in light of new or clarifying information. Writing down the correct answer on a missed problem is only the very first step in learning from mistakes and breaking misconceptions. Students who have abundant mistakes and do not have time to fully correct homework during class time should plan to attend office hours as soon as possible.

**Laboratory Work:**
Chemistry is by nature a laboratory science. Lab activities and exercises are scheduled regularly. Laboratory work is essential in order to help students to visualize abstract concepts. Pre-lab quizzes may be given to ensure that students are adequately prepared before performing any formal chemical laboratory work. Students that fail the pre-lab quiz may be given a written assignment and will be required to make up the labs during office hours. Students are expected to have appropriate dress for formal chemical laboratory exercises (see safety contract). Students will be notified ahead of time to wear appropriate lab dress and are expected to come to class prepared. I will not write passes for students to go to another classroom or car to obtain the proper lab clothing. Students lacking appropriate dress will not be permitted to perform the lab during class time and will lose 20% for lab participation. They will be allowed to make up the lab during office hours once appropriate dress has been obtained. Any missed chemical labs must be made up in a timely manner (within one week) in order to avoid receiving a zero for non-completion. Post-lab assessments may be given to measure student learning after the lab is completed.

**Quality and Timeliness of Work:**
Students are expected to complete each assignment neatly and to the best of their ability. Work is considered late if it is not turned in at the beginning of class, the day it is due. Late work will be corrected by the teacher but will be scored at 0%. Illegible work will not be graded and will receive 0%.

Your teacher will be assigning some long-term and internet-based assignments. Ample time will be given to complete these assignments, so the due date is firm and late assignments will not be accepted. Be sure to complete each assignment well before the due date to avoid any unexpected problems (illness, computer problems, etc). Waiting until the last minute to complete any long term assignment is a very poor strategy. If a serious situation arises during the course of the long-term assignment, you are expected to communicate with your instructor immediately (by telephone, email, or in person) so that the problem can be remedied well before the due date. Remember that computers and printers are readily available in the school library and at other local libraries.
Academic Dishonesty:  
**District Policy JK-R**
A student may be subject to disciplinary action when the student engages in any of the following forms of academic misconduct:

- **Lateness** - For missing or leaving school or class without permission or excuse.
- **Cheating** - Including but not limited to copying, using unauthorized help sheets and the like, illegally obtaining tests in advance, substituting for a test-taker, and other forms of unauthorized collusion.
- **Plagiarism** - Representation of the ideas or work of another person as his/her own.
- **Collusion** - Supporting malpractice by another student as in allowing one’s work to be copied or submitted for assessment by another.
- **Duplication of work** - Presentation of the same work for different assessment components and/or requirements.
- **Fabrication of Data** - Manufacturing data for a table, survey, or other such requirement.
- **Any behavior that gains an unfair advantage** for a student and/or affects the results of another student.

Cactus Shadows High School takes academic dishonesty seriously. Any violation of this policy will result in a zero for the assignment/assessment for a first offense, a zero for the assignment/assessment and short term suspension for a second offense and a loss of credit for the semester course (.5) and short term suspension for a third offense. Students who share assignment/assessment information with other students via pictures, paper or electronics will receive a zero on the assignment/assessment and a short term to long term suspension (prior academic misconduct referrals from any other school or CCUSD grade level will be considered).

Extra Credit:
It is my general policy not to give individualized extra credit assignments. However, class-wide opportunities to earn bonus points will be available from time to time. To do well in this course, students must work hard, be organized, study regularly, turn in good quality work on time, and master the content.

Students Leaving Class:
Passes will be given sparingly and students must carry their student IDs with them to receive a pass. Passes will not be given the first ten minutes or the last ten minutes of the class period and students should be gone for no longer than 5 minutes. Abuse of the pass privilege may lead to the loss of this privilege. Please use your passing time between classes to take care of personal matters. Also bring everything you need to class. Passes will not be given to students in order to get food and beverages.

Electronic Devices:
*Classrooms are now designated as ‘No Phone Zones’ except with teacher permission. All phones are expected to be housed in backpacks during class time.* Personal electronic devices such as cell phones and tablets should ideally be shut off and put away when you come into the classroom. They may be collected by the teacher if used without permission, and the parent will need to pick up the device at the end of the day from the main office. However, students are allowed to use electronic devices for learning purposes with the prior consent of the instructor.

Behavior, Self-Discipline, and Respect:
An effective, efficient, and safe learning environment will be provided for each student. Mutual respect and consideration between all members of the class is expected. Students are expected to manage their behavior and abide by the posted classroom rules and the rules outlined in the student handbook. Disruptive behaviors such as excessive talking and “blurting out”, wandering the room, or any refusal to follow a reasonable request will be documented, parents/administration notified and consequences applied as needed.

The science department has “zero tolerance” policy for intentionally distracting and unsafe behavior in the laboratory. Safety rules are to be followed at all times (see safety contract)! Unsafe behavior will result in immediate removal from the lab, loss of points, and possibly other disciplinary action. Students are strictly prohibited from removing any chemicals or equipment from the chemistry classroom. Many of the instructional demonstrations and experiments are potentially dangerous. Under no circumstances should a student attempt un-authorized experiments inside or outside of the classroom. **Students need to keep a copy of the laboratory safety contract in their chemistry notebooks at all times.**
I am here to help you succeed! If you do not understand something, need extra help, or want to review, please come to see me. You may also call or email me with your questions. I will make every effort to help you in a timely manner. You just have to let me know!

Disclaimer: Course information listed in this syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. The instructor will explain the rational for any variance as it occurs. Please sign and return this signature page. Keep the syllabus in your chemistry binder.

I have read all 4 pages of Mrs. Reisener’s Chemistry (H) syllabus and understand and accept the policies and procedures outlined there in.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name (please print)</th>
<th>Student signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent(s) or Guardian(s) name(s) (please print)</td>
<td>Parent(s) or Guardians signature(s)</td>
<td>Date</td>
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</tbody>
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Place for Parent / Guardian Comment: