

SFMHS HONORS CHEMISTRY 2014-2015

Instructor: Kati Morris

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Course Description

Students will work towards a comprehensive understanding of fundamental chemistry. This foundation will include concepts concerning the structure, properties, and interaction of atoms and compounds. Students will then integrate learned concepts, problem-solving skills, and inquiry techniques to further their understanding of chemistry and how it affects their environment and everyday lives. Key components of this process include applying ideas and processes in a laboratory setting, sharing results with the scientific community through the written word, and evaluating the results of others by analyzing articles on scientific findings.

Chemistry and math go hand-in-hand. Students will be expected to perform multiple calculations, determine percentages/standard error, and assess the validity of calculated answers. In addition, students must be able to both show their work and to explain how they performed their calculations.

The course has a degree of rigor and focus that will prepare students for both advanced high school science and college-level chemistry. It is expected that both students and instructor approach the subject matter with a level of discipline and attention to detail that will lead to these results.

Textbook: *Modern Chemistry (2006)*, by Davis, Frey, Sarquis, and Sarquis

Required Materials

Each of the following must be brought to class **every day**:

- Interactive notebook (one-subject spiral notebook) – one per quarter; first provided by instructor; if you lose the notebook, expect to reconstruct it using printouts from the class website
- Pen and/or pencil
- Notebook paper
- Scientific calculator – TI-30X IIS and TI-30Xa calculators will be provided for use during class. It is strongly recommended that students have a calculator of their own for home and class use. The recommended calculator can be purchased for \$9-12. Graphing calculators and calculators with significant memory functions cannot be used on assessments. Cell phones can never be used as calculators in class.

Behavior Expectations

- Be on time.
- Be respectful.
- Be prepared.
- Adhere to classroom, departmental, and school rules and procedures.

Assignments and Assessments

- Any assignment not due at the end of class becomes homework due the next class.
- Overnight assignments are due into the designated area within two minutes of the final bell. Late work will not be accepted unless there are prior arrangements made with the instructor. This may include additional work.
- Regular feedback is essential for success, so expect that you will be demonstrating your grasp of information and technique each and every class through some sort of assessment.

- NAME, DATE, PERIOD, and TITLE must be written on the assignment OR NO CREDIT will be given on the assignment.

Academic Integrity

Any student who is caught copying another student's work or plagiarizing other authors' works (this includes cutting and pasting from the internet) will receive an automatic zero on the assignment in question and will result in a discipline referral and parental contact.

Absences

- Students can expect that new material and an assessment will be given every day of class, making attendance a key part of success in this class.
- Students with excused absences will receive the mandated amount of time to make up work without penalty.
- YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR MAKE UP WORK. Check in with your teacher either before class begins or during individual work time for the missed work.
- You are expected to "catch up" on direct instruction either before or after school.
- If you miss an assessment, expect to take it the day you return. This will mean that you will then need to make up the material you missed while taking the assessment.
- Missing a review day will not excuse you from the test, as you have missed no new material.
- Labs must be made up within the mandated makeup time either after school during a scheduled session or through an alternate assignment.

Assistance and Communication

This course may require time and effort outside of the classroom for complete comprehension. There are many ways to get help, keep track of what has been covered, and anticipate what will come next. Following are some ways to make your time in this class successful:

- Your instructor will be available for afterschool tutoring. Specific times and dates will be announced.
- The class website will go live near the beginning of the first quarter of school. It will contain items like copies of all handouts (as .pdf's), a projected schedule, a firm schedule of what was covered, links to additional practice material, and any other items which can enhance your time in this class. This is the site to visit if you are absent, or if you lose your assignment so you can reprint it.
- Students will regularly meet with the instructor for brief one-on-one meetings to review goals, monitor progress, and highlight successes.
- The pacing guide for this course is available at <http://curriculum.leeschools.net/Academic%20Plans/ap.htm> Scroll down and click on the appropriate description.
- You can reach your instructor directly at 239/561-0060 during school hours, or online at katherinem@leeschools.net. Your instructor will answer emails and calls within one business day.

Grading

45% - Major assessments: includes unit tests, major writing assignments, etc.

30% - Minor assessments: includes quizzes, formal lab reports, minor writing assignments, etc.

25% - Practice and participation: includes informal labs, classwork, participation/conduct, notebook checks, etc.

Gradebook

Parents and students are able to check the student's grade through ParentLink, at

<http://parentlink.leeschools.net/> If you need assistance accessing ParentLink, please contact the school. While monitoring grades, keep the following in mind:

- Z = a missing assignment due to absence. There is a date given in the "notes" section for that grade, denoting the last day makeup work will be accepted. After that date, the grade becomes a 0.
- X = an assignment that does not have to be made up, and will not count against the final grade.
- 0 = an assignment with a score of zero
- blank (nothing there) = an assignment that is being graded, or has not been given yet