

Dear Parent,

Your child is enrolled in my AP Chemistry course for the 2011 – 2012 academic year. This is an advanced placement course designed to prepare the student for the AP Chemistry exam. The course covers the equivalent of one full year of college level General Chemistry. The course is intended for students who have demonstrated a willingness to commit considerable time to studying and completing assignments outside of class, and who have successfully completed a prior course in chemistry during high school.

Since passing the AP exam may qualify the student to by-pass a first-year college chemistry course, AP Chemistry should not be considered "college prep." Rather, this is a college class, with college level expectations for behavior, participation and effort.

Quarter and semester grades will be based on a percentage of the total points possible in the class up to that time, using these VUSD mandated percentages:

100% - 90% = A || 89.9% - 80% = B || 79.9% - 70% = C || 69.9% - 60% = D || Below 60% = F

Sources of points include unit tests, quizzes and labs. There will be three comprehensive tests given each semester. There are absolutely no retakes of tests and quizzes. Test scores (***not*** quiz scores) may be improved by submitting corrections to missed questions within two school days of receiving the graded test from the instructor. The instructor will provide specific guidelines for submission of these corrections. Students may earn back up to 50% of the points that they missed. Late work is not accepted. Extra-credit may be offered on some tests for particularly challenging problems. There will be no supplemental extra-credit assignments what-so-ever.

I maintain an Internet web site as a resource for my students and their parents. My web page address is:

**[www.sciencegeek.net](http://www.sciencegeek.net)**

Two website resources will be of particular interest to parents:

- A grade database that will provide you with an up-to-date, complete report on scores for all graded assignments, as well as the overall grade in the class. The grade database requires the use of the student's ID number as the user ID and the last name as the password. Grades are updated every one or two weeks.
- An email list, to which you can subscribe at the site. Once subscribed to the list, you will receive emails from the instructor when grades are updated, and to inform you of important upcoming assignments and deadlines.

The Course Calendar on my website is kept up-to-date with all assignments for at least the following two week period. I am available for help in my room during posted office hours, or by special arrangement. During the school day, parents can elicit the quickest response by emailing me at [aallan@vusd.org](mailto:aallan@vusd.org). Please understand that I do not often check my work email during the evening or on weekends, so I encourage students and parents to contact me at home (**625-9370**) any night before 8 PM or by email at **[andy.allan59@gmail.com](mailto:andy.allan59@gmail.com)**.

AP Chemistry is a very challenging course. It challenges students academically, but more so it challenges them personally as they develop the maturity to organize their busy lives and stay on top of the work load. Students who learn to prioritize as well as to keep their commitments have grown in a way that will benefit them in college and for years afterward.

Sincerely,

Andy Allan  
Chemistry Instructor  
El Diamante High School