

Chemistry Course Outline 2008 - 2009

Mr. Allan, El Diamante High School

Course Goals:

- 1) For each student to achieve the defined California State Standards for High School Chemistry.
- 2) To prepare students of college ability for further study in chemistry and at the same time to present material of use in daily life.
- 3) To encourage the spirit of scientific investigation and with it the attitudes of accuracy in thought and work.

Organization:

The course is organized into nine units according to VUSD's Essential Standards for chemistry.

Unit 0 – Introduction to the Methods of Chemistry:

Measurements and Calculations; Lab Equipment and Lab Safety

Unit 1 – Atomic Structure:

Atoms – The building blocks of Matter; Nuclear Chemistry

Unit 2 –Electrons and Periodic Behavior

Arrangement of Electrons in Atoms, The Periodic Law, Periodic Trends

Unit 3 –Bonding and Molecular Structure:

Chemical bonding; Structure of Covalent Molecules, Salts, and Metals

Unit 4 – Conservation of Matter and Stoichiometry:

Chemical Formulas and Chemical Compounds, Chemical Equations and Reactions, Stoichiometry

Unit 5 – Gases :

Physical Characteristics of Gases, Gas Laws, Molecular Composition of Gases

Unit 6 – Solids, Liquids and Solutions:

Liquids and Solids, Properties of Solutions and Solution Concentration, Acids and Bases

Unit 7 – Kinetics and Thermodynamics:

Calculations of Latent Heat and Specific Heat, Reaction Energy and Reaction Kinetics

Unit 8 – Selected Topics:

Subjects outside of the State Standards, covered after the Content Standards Test in April. Topics may include Acid-Base Titration and pH, Electrochemistry, and Organic/Biochemistry.

Grading: Student achievement of the standards will be assessed primarily through benchmark quizzes. No score is given to a student on a benchmark until the student passes the quiz with a score of 75% or better. The student may retake the benchmark as many times as necessary until the end of the following Unit or the end of the semester, whichever comes first. After the deadline, the benchmark cannot be retaken, and the score of zero becomes permanent. Students should attend office hours to retake benchmarks, or to get help in preparing for a failed benchmark.

Unit tests may be retaken once each, prior to the administration of the following unit test. However, the grade earned on the makeup will be the grade of record, so it is possible to LOSE points by doing a retake of a unit test.

Course grades will be assigned according to VUSD's standard grading practice:

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

Assignments: All assignments are announced on the Class Calendar and are expected to be complete the day after they are assigned. Homework will be checked regularly in class. In keeping with the college preparatory nature of the class, I will insist on proper and complete sentences, correct punctuation and spelling, and legible handwriting. **Work neatly.**

Attendance: It is your responsibility to find out what assignments have been missed during an absence and make plans with me for getting caught up on missed tests, quizzes and labs. If your illness will keep you out of school for more than two days I expect you to contact the school and request your homework assignments. I follow the district policy of giving you two school days to make up work for each day of excused absence.

Honesty:

Plagiarizing and copying assignments (including labs and homework), or cheating on tests and quizzes will not be tolerated. ***All work is to be done individually.*** Failure to do so will result in a parent call or conference and a "zero" on the assignment. Repeated offenses will result in an unsatisfactory citizenship grade.

Citizenship Guidelines:

District policy states that teachers will assign a citizenship grade to students on report cards. Choices for the citizenship marks include "Outstanding," "Satisfactory," "Needs Improvement," and "Unsatisfactory". Students receiving two or more unsatisfactory citizenship marks from their instructors in a given grading period are ineligible for extracurricular activities for a period of at least six weeks.

District policy states that the following criteria shall be used in determining a student's citizenship mark in his/her class:

1. Attends class regularly
2. Comes to class on time. Five (5) or more unexcused tardies in a quarter may result in an unsatisfactory citizenship mark.
3. Comes to class with necessary materials.
4. Completes homework assignments.
5. Meets deadlines.
6. Does his/her own work when independent work is required; does not cheat.
7. Exercises reasonable care of school property.
8. Shows respect for others.
9. Does not disrupt class; exercises good conduct.

Materials for Class:

1. Students will check out a chemistry book through the school library, and are accountable to the library for damage or loss of the textbook.
2. A binder with paper, pens, and #2 pencils.
3. Lab goggles are provided by the instructor. Students may also borrow calculators. Students may use their own calculators for class work, but calculators are NOT allowed on tests and quizzes.

My Web Site: I maintain an Internet web site as a resource for my chemistry students. At the site you will find the assignment calendar, practice quizzes, as well as all of the notes, Powerpoints, organizers and labs. Most of my documents are in Adobe PDF format, for which you will need to download a free viewing application. There are links at my site to the Adobe web site. My web site address is:

www.sciencegeek.net

I maintain my own grade database at the website. Students and parents may access scores on all assignments as well as the over-all grade in the course. Log in requires the use of the student ID number and last name. Parents may request a more secure password. The grades are generally upgraded on Friday of each week, and after major tests.

Sign up for my email list, also on the website, and you will be informed when grades are updated and when important assignments and deadlines are approaching.

Office Hours: My office hours are Monday and Wednesday at lunch, and Tuesday and Thursday before school from 7:45 AM to 8:15 AM. Outside of school hours, you may reach me by calling me at **625-9370** any night before 8 PM or by email at **allan.a@comcast.net**