



Chemistry I Syllabus

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Room # S9

Course Description

Chemistry I is a laboratory science course where students investigate the composition of matter and the physical and chemical changes it undergoes. Students use science process skills to study the fundamental structure of atoms, the way atoms combine to form compounds, interactions between matter and energy, forces and interactions, and waves. Problem-solving, critical thinking, applied laboratory techniques, and applied learning are all integral aspects of the course. This course contains a significant laboratory and writing component in order to ensure college and/or workforce readiness. This course is split into two semesters.

Teacher's Introduction

Chemistry is often perceived as a difficult course that only “smart” people can understand. This is far from true. Have you ever looked at some phenomena and wondered how it works? More than likely the explanation is rooted in a fundamental concept you will learn in this course. My goal for you is to leave this class with not only a sound understanding of the concepts, but also with a deeper appreciation for the sciences and confidence.

Course Outline

Instruction: Each class period will begin with a fast written assignment or problem that should be recorded on a special “great start log.” During lecture, students are encouraged to ask questions, take notes, and interact. A special note format is required and must be kept in order in your notebook for a test grade (see notebook section). Lab demonstrations will often be utilized, and some days will be designated lab days. Lecture will consist of explanation of concepts with heavy emphasis on worked example problems and student interaction. Each class ends with a big finish to assess learning and address any misconceptions from the day.

Great starts & big finishes may be randomly evaluated for a completion grade.

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Homework Assignments:

A) Students will be assigned a set of problems (no more than 15-20) reviewing the week's material each Monday on Google Classroom. They will be due the following Monday without exception. For units that are math intensive, paper homework will be given so students show all work. This will be counted as a "homework" grade.

B) Watch out! Some questions on your handout require you to watch the help videos I post on Google Classroom. They are located under the "classwork" tab in the appropriate unit. These videos are extremely beneficial and allow students to supplement their learning and review at anytime before an assessment.

Homework grades are averaged together. You only receive one homework grade per unit.

Remember, YOU are responsible for obtaining assignments on days missed. Check Google Classroom. Find the unit we are in under the "classwork" tab and find the "missing" link.

Friday Quizzes: Friday quizzes will be given often. Each quiz will cover content from Monday-Thursday. Also, often in chemistry there are certain values, tables, or trends that students must know to understand specific concepts. This is my way of ensuring students are actively learning such information and checking their Google Classroom to review. These allow students to constantly review information before a major exam. ***Also, be aware that I may give a pop quiz if most of the class appears to not be paying attention.***

Each Friday from January – March 2025 will be dedicated to the Science ACT. There will be no Friday quizzes the 2nd semester.

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Notebook: Students are required to keep a notebook (binder) using these guidelines:

- A) You must use a 3-ring binder
- B) There must be 3 separate tabs: Great Starts, Cornell Notes, and Class Handouts.
- C) These 3 items must be kept in order and completely filled out at the time of evaluation.
- D) This will be thoroughly evaluated once a semester and will be counted as a test grade.

Exams: Students will be tested after covering 1-2 units. Exams are for students to show me they have adequately studied and learned the material. Exams will consist of a mix of multiple choice and free-response questions. You may use your filled out note templates and personal periodic table. If you miss an exam day, it is your responsibility to schedule a time to take it. **Re-takes are not permitted.** Exam scores will be made available 1-2 days after the testing date and item analysis will be available upon request.

Google Classroom: Google Classroom is used as a comprehensive location for storing important files. You will find your homework, unit PowerPoints, help videos, and other assisting documents. I also post any work we do on a weekly basis in case you miss class.

This platform is **not optional** to use. **You MUST have the app, check it daily, and have notifications enabled on your phone.** Assignments from each of the 4 grading categories are posted here. Failure to properly utilize this platform will certainly result in failure of the course.

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Extra Credit

Students may earn ten (10) points on an exam by reading a supplied science book and typing a 3-page, double-spaced summary. Summaries must be thorough and well thought out in order to earn the points. A plagiarism checker will be used to determine the authenticity of your work.

Grading Policy

The composition of your grade will be calculated as follows:

Exams/Notebook: 25%

Weekly Homework: 25%

Quizzes: 25%

In-Class/Labs: 25%*

A: 90 - 100% B: 80 - 89 % C: 70 - 79% D: 60 - 69% F: Below 60%

- **Late homework will result in a 20-point drop per day/zero by Friday**
- **Labs cannot be made up; if missed, expect an alternative assignment**
- ***In order to participate in labs, you must fill out the lab safety agreement**

Needed Classroom Supplies – Have by 2nd Week of Class!

- Minimum two-inch three ring binder with loose leaf college-ruled paper (**no spiral bound notebooks!**)
- Black or blue pens
- Pencils
- Highlighter

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Classroom Rules & Procedures

Rules

1. Class begins the moment you walk in the door.
2. Do not start packing up or leaving your seat until the bell rings.
3. **No cell phones or Air Pods may be out** at any time for any reason.
4. **You must be in dress code.** CCBOE policy is posted on Google Classroom.
5. *Do what is right!*

Procedures

1. I will close the door when the bell rings - being tardy requires an admit slip
2. Transitions between desks and lab stations must be completed in one minute
3. All safety equipment must be put on during the one-minute transition period on lab days
4. While in groups each member must fulfill their given role and stay in the group---*no roaming*

Consequences

1st offense: Written or verbal warning / meeting after class

2nd offense: Call / Text to Parents / Points off

3rd offense: Office referral

Students refusing to work will also be sent to the office. If they are in a sport, I will contact their coach. My classroom will always be a hardworking, controlled, and respectful environment.

Cheating

Immediate zero (0) on assignment without possibility to make-up and parental contact

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Cell Phone & Air Pod Policy

Students are **not** to have their cell phones or other devices out for any reason, anytime. **Each time an offence occurs it will be collected and taken to the office without exception. Also, do NOT wear your Air Pods in my room!**

Dress Code

All students will obey the dress code as set by CCBOE. **I will immediately send you to the office if you are not following this important policy (even if it is the last period of the day)!**

Bathroom Policy

It is understandable for a student to have to use the restroom occasionally. However, it is not ok to become a habitual asker. You may only leave (with the hall pass) my room once a week to use the restroom unless you have a documented medical condition.

Absent Policy

If you miss school for any reason (and not sick or experiencing a family emergency), it is your responsibility to check the “classwork” tab on Google Classroom and still complete all assignments. Contact me for paper copies if you do not have quality home internet. If you return and failed to work, you will receive zeros for each assignment until you come to make them up. Instructional videos and class notes are posted to ensure adequate instruction is available.

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Tardy to Class

Instead of sending a tardy student to the quad to obtain a late slip (which keeps students out of class even longer), I will email the appropriate person. If you begin to arrive tardy often, I will administer my own punishments, such as parental contact and extra homework.

ISS

If you are in ISS, check Google Classroom. You are expected to still complete ALL work on time. I will not send you work because it will already be posted under the appropriate unit. Your new ISS instructor is already aware of this. Work is due the day you return, or you will earn a zero.

Miscellaneous

- Students or parents may request a take-home textbook
- If you need paper copies of anything on Google Classroom, let me know! It is no problem.
- I check email at all times. Feel free to message me at andrew.johnson@chestercountyschools.org

Parents – please do not unsubscribe from Remind! This is how I will contact you.

Remember..... “When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it is tied to everything else in the universe.” John Muir (1838-1914)