



Chemistry I Syllabus

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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 phenomenon 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 (Cornell) 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 10-15) on Google Classroom reviewing the week's material each Monday. They will be due the following Monday without exception. On that day, the assignment will automatically lock at 8 AM and will not be re-opened. This will be counted as a "homework" grade. The goal of this portion of your homework is to serve as a review regarding what we *have been* doing in class.

B) A portion of your weekly homework discussed in section (A) will come from our textbook. You will be assigned a section to read that will be covered the *upcoming week* in class. Some questions will be asked to ensure you have read over that material. The goal of this portion of your homework is to help you see how what we *have covered* blends with what we *will learn*.

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. Friday quizzes also 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.

ACT Science Prep:

Each Friday from January – March 2026 will be dedicated to the Science ACT. Due to the large number of seniors who did not receive science ACT prep last year, we will also dedicate some days in the fall semester before the senior retake. The ACT is critically important to your future and deserves quality preparation. These days will have grades taken and require Cornell notes.

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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) Tabs mentioned in (B) must be organized by UNIT, except for Great Starts, which must be by DATE
- D) Only cheat sheets & the syllabus can be in side pockets. Nothing else is allowed.
- E) You may use your binder for any quiz, exam, or your comprehensive final in May 2026
- F) 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. All exams will be multiple choice except for units 6 & 7, which will be free response. 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 homework, reading assignments, PowerPoints, help videos, and other assisting documents. All make up work will be posted here except for required learning handouts. Those are only given out in 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 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 writing a 3-page 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. If it detects AI, ten (10) points *will be taken off* your grade.

Grading Policy

The composition of your grade will be calculated as follows:

Exams/Notebook: 25%

Homework: 25%

Friday Quizzes: 25%

In-Class/Labs: 25%*

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

- Late work cannot be made up unless it is an extenuating circumstance
- 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

Chemistry is a graduation requirement in the State of Tennessee

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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

Classroom Rules & Procedures

Rules

1. Class begins the moment you walk in the door
2. Do not pack up before the bell rings
3. **No cell phones or Air Pods may be out** at any time for any reason
4. Not working is not an option
5. *Do what is right!*

Procedures

1. I will close the door when the bell rings - being tardy requires an admit slip
2. Check table (1) for assignments/handouts as you enter the room and then promptly begin your great start
3. While in groups each member must fulfill their given role and stay in the group---*no roaming*
4. All required safety equipment must be put on before a lab begins

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Consequences

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

2nd offense: Call / Text to Parents / Discussion with Coach

3rd offense: Office referral

Students refusing to work will be sent to the office. If they are in a sport, I will contact their coach in hopes of a swift resolve. 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

Technology 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! We will only use school laptops if technology is needed during class. GoGuardian will always be turned on. No personal laptops will be used.

Regarding AI, I realize it is now a part of our daily lives. Telling you not to use it is unrealistic. As a result, I encourage you to use quality resources as needed to better understand topics or homework problems I give you. There is nothing wrong with using technology to reinforce your learning. However, using it to simply obtain an answer without understanding **why** is not only unacceptable, but also irresponsible. Use me as your first resource to learning.

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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 complete all assignments.

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. **Learning handouts are paper only and can only be made up in the classroom.**

If you are in a period after lunch, do not frequently check out after 11:30. If that becomes an issue, I will contact administration and get it stopped. **You will fail this class if you are not here!**

Tardy Policy

Instead of sending a tardy student to the quad to obtain a late slip (which keep 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 or extra homework.

ISS

If you are in ISS, check your email as you arrive. You are expected to complete ALL work on time. Work is due the day you return or a zero (0) will be issued until you make it up.

Dress Code

All students must obey the dress code as set by CCBOE (6.310). It is not optional. If I find you in violation of it, regardless of the period, I will send you to the office. Lanyards are required.

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Bathroom Policy

It is understandable for a student to occasionally ask to use the restroom during class.

However, it is not ok to habitually ask. You may only leave (with the hall pass) once a week to use the restroom unless you have a documented medical condition that I have been notified of by the office.

Miscellaneous

- Students or parents may request a take-home textbook
- Feel free to reach out to me via email (andrew.johnson@chestercountyschools.org) or on Parent Square
- Progress reports will be sent out according to the district's schedule
- Guardians can add themselves as a "parent" on their child's Google Classroom

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)

Also Remember..... "You matter and have a purpose in this world."

Mr. Johnson (1995-)