

Honors Chemistry Policies Spring 2025

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Course Overview

Honors chemistry is a yearlong elective course designed for students who are interested in a college prep science class and wish to challenge themselves beyond general chemistry. Critical thinking, problem solving, and drawing conclusions based on evidence are major components of this course. After a short review of fundamental skills such as units of measure and dimensional analysis, students will study the following topics: The history of chemistry; atomic properties; the periodic table and its trends; types of compounds; chemical reactions; stoichiometry; thermochemistry; behavior of gases; solutions chemistry; equilibrium; and acids and bases.

Learners who struggle with algebra will have a very difficult time in this course. For them, a move to chemistry may be appropriate because it is at a slower pace. I will recommend such a move to a student and his/her parents if I feel it is in the student's best interest.

At the end of each semester there will be a cumulative final exam. Be aware that the final is cumulative for the entire year, meaning everything taught from August to May is fair game.

Grading Policy

Your overall grade is a composite of your performance in five weighted categories. Please be aware that **COURSE GRADES WILL NOT BE ROUNDED UP**.

Homework	10%
Labs	20%
Tests	45%
Final exam	25%

Grading Scale:

A = 90% and above
B = 80% and above
C = 70% and above
D = 60% and above
F = below 60%

Required Materials

You will need **pencils with erasers** (there are lots of math problems in chemistry); **red pen** for correcting work; **calculator**; **metric ruler**; **binder with lined paper and divider tabs** **OR** **spiral notebook** (your choice).

Expectations for Learners

You will be held to very high standards regarding your work ethic, personal accountability, and time management in this class. We have a lot of ground to cover each day, so you need to be seated and ready to start class when the bell rings. If homework is due, have it out along with a red pen to make corrections. Homework of some sort (reading, problem sets, or other) can be expected nearly every day, and it is your responsibility to keep up. One missing assignment may make the difference between one letter grade and the next at the end of the semester.

Either pencil or blue or black ball point pen (no felt tips) must be used on your homework, labs, and quizzes. Red pen is to be used only for correcting work. And while I love purple, orange, hot pink, and lime green as much as the next person, these are not suitable for academic assignments. Please save the rainbow gel pens for notetaking or other fun stuff.

Lab Safety

Proper lab techniques and safety rules must be followed at all times in the lab. On lab days, clothing which covers your legs is *recommended* and ***closed-toe shoes are required*** because we use lots of glassware and occasionally some hazardous chemicals. Failure to act in a safe and responsible manner will result in your removal from the lab and a possible “zero” for the lab assignment. Do not touch any equipment or chemicals without teacher permission. *A lab safety contract signed by you and your parent/guardian is required in order for you to participate in lab activities beyond the first two weeks of school.*

Tests

Tests are given at the end of each unit (typically every 3-4 weeks) and are announced at least one week in advance. **You are allowed to use one 3 x 5” card (both sides) with hand-written notes on each unit test.**

Makeup Policies for Absences

You are responsible for finding out what you missed during your absence. To do this, check with a friend or on my website. If you need to speak to me about makeup work, do so during Access or before school. I’m in my classroom *at about 7:00am* every day with rare exceptions, so feel free to drop by.

Absences and TESTS: Get them made up in advisement as soon as you can.

Absences and HOMEWORK:

You are allowed two school days for each day of an EXCUSED absence to make up any homework assigned while you were out. *If you are absent the day a homework assignment is due but were in class on the day it was assigned, you must present it to me on the day you return in order to receive credit; otherwise it will be considered late.* For an UNEXCUSED absence, refer to Chatfield’s policy on makeup work.

Absences and LABS: If you miss a lab day or other activity that must be made up in the classroom, you will have 5 school days in which to do so beginning on the day you return. From the day you perform the lab work, you will have the same number of days to turn in your lab report as your classmates had. Failure to make up missed lab work and submit your lab report within the makeup window will result in a zero for the lab assignment.

Late Work

Late daily homework assignments are not accepted for credit and will be recorded as a “zero” in the gradebook. We typically go over homework answers at the beginning of class, so students are expected to at least *attempt* all the problems on your own beforehand. This enables them to fully participate in class and ask questions about assigned problems after trying to solve them independently.

Late lab reports will be accepted for 70% maximum credit if submitted *within 5 calendar days of their due date.*

Cell Phone Policy

No teacher can compete with the distraction of a cell phone. Students preoccupied with their phones absorb less information during class and consequently perform much worse on tests and quizzes. That is a fact. For that reason, **students will place their silenced phones in the storage caddy at the front of the classroom before the bell rings to start class and will retrieve them when the bell rings.** If a student is found with their phone during class, it will be confiscated until the end of the day. In addition, if it is a second offense, the student’s parent/guardian will be contacted to try to resolve the behavior issue.

Academic Dishonesty

This is a euphemism for cheating. Call it what you like, but I have ZERO tolerance for it regardless of the reason. You are blessed with a very fine brain, and my job is to help you develop it.

Actions defined as cheating include but are not limited to:

- Copying answers from another source (e.g. student, internet, or answer key) – this includes homework
- Allowing your work to be copied by another student – again, this includes homework
- Turning in another person's work as your own
- Plagiarism
- Obtaining questions or answers from a test or quiz beforehand
- Sharing or receiving information about questions or answers on a test or quiz beforehand
- Having your phone in your possession during a test or quiz (even if you swear you weren't using it!)
- Failure to report a cheating incident that you have knowledge of

Academic consequences for cheating on a test, quiz, or assignment include an automatic, non-negotiable “zero” for the work in question. No “redo” for partial credit will be granted. If the cheating is related to a test, the offender will lose the privilege of having that zero dropped at the end of the semester, even if he/she/they have not missed any tests. In addition, all cheating incidents will be reported to the dean for potential disciplinary action according to Chatfield's cheating policy. Depending on the gravity of a cheating incident occurring in fall semester, the offender may be moved from honors to general chemistry second semester. Remember, the standards are higher in this honors class.

Extra Help is Available!

Struggling with any concepts in this class? Be proactive and get extra help right away. I circulate during independent work time in class specifically so that students can ask for help. In addition, I'm available to work with students during Advisement, Study Lab, and before school most days. I can *promise* that if you are committed to doing well in this course, I am just as committed to supporting you.

Internet Resources

Websites and apps that *may* be used to facilitate teaching and learning in this course include:

- Google Apps: Jeffco School District's supported platform for creating websites, virtual classrooms, calendars, electronic documents (worksheets, quizzes, etc.) in order for teachers to provide instruction, assessments, and support to their learners. (https://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/student_portal/google_app_logins)
- PhET: Contains simulations that help students visualize concepts which may otherwise be very difficult to understand. (<https://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulations/filter?subjects=general&sort=alpha&view=grid>)
- ck12: Provides an easy-to-read online chemistry textbook with accompanying practice problems, video tutorials, and self-quizzes. (<https://www.ck12.org/c/chemistry/>)
- Khan Academy: Contains tutorial modules and practice tests for all high school chemistry content. (<https://www.khanacademy.org/science/chemistry>)
- Collisions Chemistry: Helps students visualize and interact with chemistry concepts through “games” aligned with the curriculum. (<https://app.playmada.com/Collisions/>)
- Quizizz: Syncs with Google Classroom, providing an engaging platform for students to review concepts, vocabulary, and problem-solving skills. (<https://quizizz.com/>)
- Turn It In: Allows students to electronically submit papers and enables teachers to verify the originality of students' work. (<https://www.turnitin.com/login>)