

Name:
Block:

Chemistry Course
Syllabus [Honors]

Date:
Mrs. Mehalick

Welcome to class! This semester we will explore a variety of key chemistry-related topics:

1. Review and Lab Orientation
2. Atomic Structure
3. Ionic and Molecular Compounds
4. Chemical Quantities and Stoichiometry
5. Thermochemistry, Kinetics, Gas Laws
6. Equilibrium, Solutions, and Acids/Bases

Class Structure

Via our six units, we will explore about 18 chapters in our 18 weeks together. Typically, we begin class with a “Do Now” problem that you solve in your chemistry binder or on a small whiteboard. Once we analyze the solutions to the “Do Now,” I outline our daily goals and explain the homework assignment. Thereafter, class time typically consists of short phases of lecture interjected with individual work, collaborative work (with a partner or in small groups), and lab activities. We use technology to enhance learning. And because communication is fundamental to learning, I greatly encourage large- and small-group discussions and practice. Before class ends, we review what we have accomplished during the block / in the unit thus far and preview what is coming up next.

PRACTICE AND FEEDBACK are two essential components of your success in this class. Chemistry is procedural and skills-based. *It requires lots of practice*, because you cannot just memorize skills. As a learner, *it is your responsibility to pursue feedback* about your ability – never allow a grade to be the first time you receive information about what you do/do not know. Remember these key points:

- Different people require different amounts of practice to master different skills.
- “Finishing” an assignment does not guarantee understanding.
- If you focus on learning, then the points will come.

CLASS MATERIALS must be brought with you each day:

- 1½” or 2” binder + paper (required – may be individual binder or 1 section of a larger binder)
 - It is your responsibility to keep a *neat and organized* binder at all times.
 - Consider purchasing section dividers and/or folders to better organize your binder.
- Calculator (required)
 - Only scientific calculators are needed; graphing calculators are permitted, but not required. Calculator memories will be cleared before assessments.
 - Unfortunately, there is no “class set” of calculators. *If your calculator breaks or your calculator batteries die, you must replace your calculator/batteries as soon as possible.*
- Assignment book (recommended)
- Pencils and pens (required), highlighters (recommended), and colored pencils (recommended)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY is required in all of your work for this class; you will not cheat or plagiarize. You will maintain honest ownership of your work. This obligation, and any resulting penalty due to misconduct, is in accordance with the Academic Integrity Policy in the student handbook.

Grading Policy

Students are expected to take the lead role in learning. Thus, it is your responsibility to monitor your understanding and your performance in class. Your **OVERALL COURSE GRADE** consists of your two marking period grades (40% for each marking period) and your core assessments grades (20%). **MARKING PERIOD GRADES** will be determined within the following grading categories:

Assessments	–	70%	(unit exams, quizzes)
Activities	–	20%	(labs, projects)
Assignments	–	10%	(classwork, homework)

CORE ASSESSMENTS consist of three performance lab practicals and one cumulative final exam, all of which are course requirements. Each assessment is devised of multiple choice questions, lab scenarios, problem solving, and/or written responses.

EXAMS are announced in advance. Concepts tested during exams may come from any homework, relevant text material, quizzes, labs, and/or activities covered. Many skills honed in chemistry class are cumulative, meaning that they rely on skills previously learned. *Material from previous chapters can and often does appear on any test.* Students are expected to finish exams in the specific time allotted.

QUIZZES are given often to assess learning progress. They may be announced or unannounced depending on the difficulty of the material. Like exams, *quizzes may and often do include material from previous chapters*, and students are expected to finish quizzes in the specific time allotted.

LAB ACTIVITIES require specific safety procedures and measures which are explained in a safety contract. Lab activities include a written component. You perform lab procedures with your lab partner but complete the written components on your own.

HOMEWORK is assigned and checked daily. Missing or incomplete homework will result in a 5-point deduction from your overall homework score.

CLASS PARTICIPATION is a vital factor of your success in this course. You are an asset to this classroom by contributing positively every day. Show courtesy and respect for yourself, your peers, and me. Demonstrate good sense and self-discipline at all times.

SEEK ADDITIONAL HELP whenever you feel you may need it – and the sooner, the better. Simply schedule an appointment with me; it is never too difficult for me to arrange extra time before or after school to help you with your work. Staying even a few extra minutes can truly improve your confidence in the material and your overall progress in this class.

CHOOSE TWO STUDY BUDDIES in your class. These are people you can turn to for any questions or clarifications about notes, topics, assignments, due dates, and whatever else you need. I *highly recommend* that you collaborate / study together for quizzes and exams – this enhances accountability.

Name: _____ Email/phone number: _____

Name: _____ Email/phone number: _____

Contact Information

I welcome questions and comments and may be reached at any time. The best way to contact me is by email, and I will strive to get back to you within one school day. If you would rather speak to me on the phone, please email me first and say so, and I will call you back at the end of the school day. I will explain in greater detail during class how we will use our class websites.

Email address – tmehalick@cbsd.org **Phone number** – (267)-893-2500 ext. 6082

Class website – <http://cbsd.org/tmercer>

Canvas website – Our class uses “Canvas.” This is an online tool that presents a way for us to collaborate and communicate about classroom assignments and content. To access the site, go to <https://cbsd.instructure.com/>. Log in using your CB username/password, and then select our course from the dashboard.

My primary goal is for you to have the best possible learning experience in our chemistry course. I expect you to adhere to the following classroom guidelines and procedures to ensure that we have a successful semester together:

Classroom Guidelines*

1. Follow directions the first time they are given and thereafter.
2. Be on time, on task, and prepared to learn every day.
3. Respect the teacher, the classroom, the other students, and yourself.
4. Maintain responsibility for your own learning.
5. Keep away all personal electronic devices.

Classroom Procedures*

The following procedures are simply meant to make the administrative aspects of our class run more smoothly so that we can focus on learning.

1. Communicating with the teacher

- a. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me for any reason! Email is always an option, but it is often best to speak in-person.
- b. Out of fairness to others, class time will be used to address *group* needs. Class time is not an appropriate time to inquire about *individual* issues (missed work, make-up items, grades, etc.). Even hallway change time is too hectic for the teacher to commit full attention to these types of conversations – please limit discussion of personal issues to **before or after school**.

2. Starting class

- a. Enter the classroom and walk directly to your assigned seat, bringing with you all necessary materials for the day.
 - *Required materials:* pen/pencil, calculator, binder or notebook with loose-leaf paper, homework, and any other material required by me that day (your textbook, lab-appropriate attire, etc.)
- b. Begin the “Do Now” problem posted on the board BEFORE the bell rings, and keep working on it after the bell rings until I ask for your attention or give further instructions.

3. Treating tardy (late) arrivals

- a. Enter the classroom quietly and walk immediately to your assigned seat. Hand me your pass or leave it on my front desk (whichever method is less disruptive at the time that you arrive).
- b. In accordance with the student handbook, if you are tardy three or more times I must contact your parent/guardian and submit a conduct referral to your House Principal.

4. Ending class

- a. Do not begin packing up your belongings early. Do not leave your seat early.
- b. At the end of the block, I will tell you when you may pack up and leave the room.

5. Leaving the classroom

- a. If you need to use the restroom or the water fountain, raise your hand first to ask permission. *Use your best judgment to avoid interrupting an activity, presentation, or discussion.*
- b. If I say that you may leave, sign out first using the Sign-Out Sheet near the door. Sign back in upon your return. *You MAY NOT sign out and leave the room without asking me first.*
- c. Only one person may leave the classroom at a time, so if somebody else is out please wait until they return to ask permission to leave.

6. **Turning in late assignments**

- a. If you are unprepared to turn in your work when it is due, **10% of the assignment's total possible points will be deducted from your score *per day* until you turn in your work.**
- b. Late assignments can be turned in for partial credit at any point before the end of the marking period unless I specify otherwise. In most cases, I will set a maximum deduction of 50%, meaning it's still in your best interest to complete an assignment (even if it's 5+ days late).

I understand that certain situations make it impossible to meet deadlines (illness, family emergencies, etc.). As such, it is important to **communicate with me early and often** if you know you will have trouble completing your work on-time so that we can make all necessary arrangements.

7. **Handling absences from class... REGULAR ATTENDANCE IS VITAL TO YOUR SUCCESS IN CHEMISTRY.** New critical thinking skills are developed and refined every day. *Frequent absences and tardies will hinder your progress in this course.*

- a. **If you are absent, you have the total number of days you were absent to complete and turn-in make-up work.** Any work not made-up during that time period will be marked late.
- b. **If you are absent for a lab activity, you must email me at tmehalick@cbsd.org upon your return to obtain the theoretical data for the lab you missed.** Unless you missed a Core Prep Lab, you will not have to complete the lab procedure after school; instead you will answer the lab questions at home using the theoretical data I've provided.
- c. *Prior to your absence (when possible):*
 - Notify me in person AND via email **at least two days prior** to any planned absence (field trip, college visit, school competition, doctor's appointment, family trip, etc.)
 - Plan to come before school or stay after school **at least one day prior** to your absence to pick up your work and discuss deadlines.
- d. *During your absence (when possible):*
 - Stay up-to-date by checking our class website, **Canvas**:
 - Download and read the notes from class.
 - Check out any assignments/handouts/due dates/links that have been posted.
 - For additional help with content, read the accompanying section(s) of the textbook.
 - Create a list of specific questions you have about the material.
- e. *Upon your return to school:*
 - **BEFORE the bell rings:** consult the "**Absence Binder**" to collect any handouts you missed (they will have your name written on top). If needed, consult with a peer to determine what topics you missed.
 - Turn in any assignments that were scheduled while you were in school but due while you were absent.
 - *Attempt to "hit the ground running"* by re-entering class as if you were not away. Do your best to understand the current material, be engaged, and participate to the greatest extent possible.
 - Speak to me before or after school about any make-up items and/or extra help.

8. **NOT using personal electronic devices**

- a. The use of personal electronic devices is prohibited in our classroom at all times unless I specify otherwise.
- b. In accordance with CB policy, I must give you one warning before writing you up for having your electronic device out during class. This is your warning.

9. **Completing and submitting homework...** Homework is assigned to provide essential PRACTICE with new concepts, to bridge between topics, and to reinforce learned skills. Homework may include reading and note-taking, problem-solving, preparing a lab report, working on a project, studying for a quiz or test, watching a video posted online, completing class work, etc. Whatever form it takes, homework must be taken seriously.
- Class time will be designated to answer questions related to homework. However, some assignments will require you to access an answer key online, check your work, and return to class the next day with specific questions. *Remember:* it is your responsibility to monitor your progress in class and regulate your own learning.
 - Homework may be checked for completion or correctness**, depending on the type of assignment. In most cases, textbook and worksheet problems are checked for completion; lab activities are checked for correctness.
 - Credit is awarded for honest attempts at solving problems – you must show your work.** Copying down the question and/or the answer from the back of the book is not sufficient. You may not always be confident that you know how to find the answer, and that can be resolved in class and/or before/after school. However, “not understanding” or “not remembering” how to do problems does *not* exempt you from trying your best to do so.
 - Each student begins each marking period with 50 homework points. If your homework is incomplete or missing, 5 points will be deducted from your homework grade.
 - You will only have the opportunity to make up lost homework points if you were absent when the assignment was given.

Consequences**

There are consequences if you do not comply with the guidelines as they have been described:

- Verbal warning(s)
- After school detention + action plan (What is the problem? Why is this a problem? What can we do to fix the problem?)
- Re-evaluation of action plan + parent/guardian email or phone call
- Conference with student, parent/guardian, teacher, and guidance counselor
- Administrative involvement

**I reserve the right to modify or remove any existing guidelines or procedures as needed. I also reserve the right to augment these with new guidelines or procedures as needed. I will notify you as soon as possible if the guidelines or procedures have been updated.*

***I reserve the right to alter or accelerate these consequences for any misbehavior that presents a danger to the wellbeing and/or the learning of anyone in our classroom. Any serious, severe misbehavior will be addressed as outlined in the student handbook.*

*Please read this document carefully and have your parent or guardian do the same. Thereafter, keep this form in your binder for the semester. **Acknowledge your understanding of and compliance with this document via the survey on Canvas by _____.***