

AP Chemistry: Policies and Procedures

Class Preparation

Every student should come to class with writing utensils, paper and a calculator. I suggest a 3-ring binder with several dividers to help organize your notes, homework and labs. Some colleges will require documentation of the labs you completed in AP Chem before awarding lab credit. It would be wise to save all your labs. On lab days you must wear closed-toe shoes.

Homework:

Each unit of study will include a problem set of questions from our text book. Please consult the syllabus for a list of the specific assignments. I consider these problems the absolute *minimum* amount of work a student needs to complete in order to master the material. Every person works at a different pace and you may need to do more than the assigned problems if you find a certain topic challenging. I **strongly** encourage you to do as many problems as you can. Practice, practice and more practice! Homework is a *formative* assessment.

Labs:

Laboratory experiments are an important part of all chemistry courses, especially AP Chemistry. The labs we will conduct involve more challenging procedures, new techniques, and more potential hazards than in previous science courses. As such, it is **essential** that you thoroughly read the entire experiment, especially all safety information, **before** coming to class to perform the lab. Each lab will have an “Advanced Study Assignment” that is due at the beginning of the lab period. This assignment is a *formative* assessment. No students will be allowed to start a lab without first turning in the “Advanced Study Assignment.” Labs will be posted on Edline several days before the experiment is to be conducted so an absence the day before the experiment is not a legitimate excuse. A copy will be given out in class the day before the lab.

The remainder of the lab, the data, calculations, analysis, and conclusions, is due one week after the completion of the experiment. It is considered a *summative* assessment and will be graded as such. While you worked with a partner to complete the lab it is expected that the calculations, analysis and conclusion sections will be done independently. Students who copy work from others or allow their work to be copied are guilty of cheating. Please see the “Academic Dishonesty” section in the student handbook for further details. I will not write a letter of recommendation for any student engaging in such behavior.

Tests and Quizzes:

A test will be given at the end of each unit of study. In order to prepare you for the AP exam, our tests will consist of a multiple choice section and a free response section and will be 90 minutes in length. Tests are *summative*. Quizzes will be given periodically throughout the year and can be either *summative* or *formative* assessments.

Grading

Each quarter will count as 20% of your final grade. The midterm and final exams will each count as 10% of the final course grade.

Student grades are determined using two broad categories of assessment:

- **Formative Assessment** is a planned process used by teachers and students during instruction that provides feedback to adjust teaching and learning to improve student achievement. This assessment provides information about student progress and direction for improvement and / or adjustment to a program for individual students or whole class. Some quizzes, homework, and some lab reports are formative in nature.
- **Summative Assessment** provides information to make judgments about student achievement at the end of a period of instruction and for determining an achievement grade. These assessments

measure learning at the end of a period of instruction after students have had a chance to practice learning. Tests, some quizzes, some lab reports, and projects are summative in nature.

In this course, 100% of your grade for each marking period will be comprised of summative assessments.

AP Exam

It is my expectation that you will take the AP Chemistry exam on Monday, May 6, 2013.

Extra Help

If you find yourself becoming lost, please see me for help as soon as possible! AP Chemistry is a course that builds on itself. Don't let the class get away from you. I am available for extra help before and after school most days. Please see me to schedule a time to meet. I am also available via email:

jrieger@fairfieldschools.org (Note – I do not check my email after 9 pm)

I strongly encourage you to form study groups. Working with classmates is a great way to reinforce concepts and help with test preparation.

Check our Edline page regularly. I will post notes, labs, assignments and helpful links. Also, there are many wonderful AP Chemistry review books. I suggest getting one early in the year and using it often. “5 Steps to a 5”, “500 AP Chemistry Questions to Know by Exam Day” and Baron’s “AP Chemistry” are excellent.

Welcome to AP Chem!