

GRADING POLICY and GENERAL INFORMATION

College Park High School Chemistry Honors 2017-2018

A. INTRODUCTION

Chemistry is a field which investigates the building blocks of all matter, the atom. An understanding of chemistry is essential to many aspects of life in modern society. We will study how atoms combine to form various compounds, why atoms have characteristic properties, and how atoms, molecules, and salts behave under different conditions. (In *teen-speak*, we'll learn about "the stuff that stuff is made of".)

Chemistry is a *quantitative* science, and therefore success requires the application of mathematics to fully understand many of its concepts.

B. REQUIRED MATERIALS

You must have a 3-ring binder to be used exclusively for this course. It can be as cheap or as expensive as you like, but it must be **loose-leafed** and **3-ring!** You will, of course, need a pen, pencils, and paper. It is also expected that you will have a **calculator** with you on a *daily basis*; a non-graphing calculator will be provided for you during exams. *Graphing calculators may NOT be used during exams.*

C. GRADES

Quarter Grades:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \text{Total} & = & \text{Tests} & + & \text{Homework} & + & \text{Labs} & + & \text{Attendance} \\ & & (50\%) & & (20\%) & & (25\%) & & (5\%) \end{array}$$

*Semester Grades:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Total} & = & [\text{Average of the 2 Qtr. \%}] & + & [\text{Final Exam}] \\ & & (85\%) & & (15\%) \end{array}$$

Grade Distribution:

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

D. LABORATORY

Approximately 25% of your time will be spent in the laboratory. It is probably the most important part of the course since much of the real learning takes place in the lab. An experiment typically requires 60-100 minutes of actual working time (manipulating equipment, making observations, taking measurements and recording data, performing required calculations, etc.). Some labs involve multiple activities, and therefore *almost all labs will take more than a class period to complete*. A student who has "*pre-labeled*" well will finish. One who does not prepare or who works too slowly will not finish and will not score well on the lab.

If you are absent for a lab, you need to make arrangements to make up the missed lab after school. Sometimes, students feel that a makeup lab is not feasible for them. If this occurs, you are to contact your teacher and you will be given the experimental data from which you proceed with the writeup. **Maximum credit available in these circumstances is 70%.**

The formal report of an experiment normally will consist of a **pre-lab**, completed data tables and calculations, and a **post-lab** write-up. Even though some lab handouts may provide pre-drawn data and calculations tables, you will normally be required to recreate them in your completed lab report.

The **pre-lab** portion is done as *homework* prior to the lab day. It will be checked for **quality** and **completeness** at the start of the lab period. It consists of the following parts:

- I. A couple of complete sentences describing the **PURPOSE** or question being investigated. Example: "*The purpose of this experiment is to determine the chloride content in an unknown salt. A second objective is to apply what we have learned about mass to mole conversions.*" (This will be in your own words.)
- II. The **PROCEDURES**. A *brief, paraphrased* written description of the steps you will go through in order to do the experiment. It should be presented in a numbered or bulleted step-by-step fashion.
- III. Any **RULED DATA TABLES** which will be needed for recording all measured values done during the experiment. A ruled data table consists of vertical and horizontal lines *neatly* drawn with a straight-edge. (Although easily done in a word processor, this portion of the pre-lab may be done by hand in ink rather than typed.)

After completing the lab work, a **POST-LAB WRITEUP** must be done. This involves completing that part of the lab often called QUESTIONS and/or CONCLUSIONS located at the end of the experiment handout. In addition to answering the questions, you must neatly present **all calculations setups** and numerical answers. (Calculation steps need not be typed.)

A final paragraph is to be written as an explanation or **SUMMARY** of the experimental findings. It should be a brief attempt to 'tie together' your discoveries. This

conclusion may also involve some explanation as to *why* the outcome was not what you expected, as well as your suggestions on way to improve the *design* of the experiment.

Even though lab activities are generally done with a partner, *each student is to turn in writing that reflects his/her own thoughts, ideas and words.*

NOTE!! All lab reports in Chem Honors must be typed. (Most graphs will be computer-generated. Otherwise, graphs may be roughed-in with pencil, then finished off in ink.) **Labs are due on the day announced. You will receive a maximum of 70% credit for labs turned in late.**

E. LAB DONATION

We humbly request a **\$20 lab donation** for this class. (*Of course, we will gratefully accept donations of ANY amount.*) This is a one-time, tax-deductible, nonrefundable amount. It will help to offset the high costs of involved in running this laboratory course. **Payment is to be made to the CPHS chemistry program** (*using a credit card and via district webstore — <https://cphs-falcons.myschoolcentral.com/>*) within the first two weeks of class. Online payment is preferred, but we also accept checks made out to *CPHS*, in which case you will be given a signed receipt upon payment.

F. HOMEWORK

Homework problems will be assigned on a regular basis. They are due at the *beginning* of the period. The assignment format will begin with the heading (see the following example):

Chemistry
HW Ch. 1 #1-4, 7

Name _____
Period _____
Date _____

The actual homework writeup should include:

- I. The question rephrased *in your own words* with the answer included.
- II. If a calculation is required: setup with **units** which show how you arrived at your answer.
- III. Place the numerical answer with the *correct significant figures* and *units* in a box

NOTE: All homework must be done entirely in ink. Pencil is not acceptable. NO LATE HOMEWORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.

If you are legally absent, the assigned work must be turned in within a *reasonable* period of time. (It is *your* responsibility to discuss that timeframe with your teacher as soon as you come back to school.) Check my **chemistry homework web site** (<http://cphs.net/chemistry>) for posted homework assignments when you are absent. Additional resource materials for this class can be found online at:

http://college.cengage.com/chemistry/zumdahl/chemistry/7e/student_home.html

G. TESTS

Tests are given after each completed chapter in the textbook. Since tests make up 50% of the grade in this class, it is wise to do your best. Come prepared with a #2 pencil. **There are no make-ups for individual tests due to an absence.** Instead, a single, comprehensive makeup test will be provided at the end of each quarter. The *lowest test score* for the current quarter will be dropped, so the end-of-quarter test is a good opportunity to improve your grade!

H. ATTENDANCE

Attendance is one of the most important parts of a rigorous course like chemistry. It is expected that you will be in class on a regular basis. It is the responsibility of each student to determine what work has been missed during unavoidable absences. A period of time equal to the time missed will be allowed for turning in missed work. Additional time may be negotiated with the instructor when there are extenuating circumstances.

Developing good patterns of timeliness is important in life and especially so in this class. Coming on time to class after the bell has rung and after attendance has been taken detracts from instructional time and is a distraction to the rest of the class. You also may miss crucial instructions given for in-class activities.

Each student will be assigned **50 attendance points** at the beginning of each quarter. Each **truant** absence will result in the loss of **15 points**. It is **your** responsibility to get your absences cleared promptly.

You will be allowed 2 "grace" tardies per quarter. Thereafter, each tardy of 30 minutes or less will result in a loss of **5 points**. No additional time will be given on tests or classwork as the result of a tardy. (After 30 min., it counts as an absence.)

Finally, you are expected to follow the College Park rules of conduct, honesty, attendance, and tardy policies as described in the *Student Handbook*.

In particular, students must adhere to the following:

- cell phones are to remain off and out of sight during class, unless being used in an educationally-relevant manner (e.g., smartphone calculator app).
- graphing calculators are not to be used as *gameboys* or they will be confiscated.
- music players are to remain off and headphones put away during class.
- food and beverages (other than water) are not to be consumed during class.

Note to Parent(s):

Please feel free to write me a note or call (682-7670 or 682-8000 to reach voicemail) if you have any questions or concerns during the year.

You can also reach me via email. *This is actually the preferred way to contact me ;)* I'm looking forward to a great year working with your son or daughter at College Park!

Mr. Cary Hellman
voicemail: x.3272
HellmanC@mdusd.org

I have read and understand the Classroom Grading Policies for Chemistry Honors.

Student Name (Print)

Student Signature

Date

Dear Parent(s):

Please sign below that you have read the Chemistry Honors class policy sheet. Your son or daughter will earn class points for returning this form during the first week of school. Thank you.

Parent Signature

Information to help me contact you in the future:

Parent/Guardian #1 (print name):

Parent/Guardian #2 (print name):

Work/Cell phone:

Work/Cell phone:

Home phone:

Home phone:

E-mail:

E-mail:

Please list all **science courses** that you have taken while attending high school: