

# Chemistry Honors □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

Coronado High School  
Expectations  
Mrs. Viscardo  
Room 907

## Course Overview:

This first year course is designed for students who have successfully completed Algebra I and exhibit interest in science. Topics include: mathematics of chemistry, atomic theory and structure, lab procedures and safety, elements, compounds and mixtures, the structure and organization of the periodic table, chemical bonding, nomenclature, solids, liquids and gases, the mole concept, electrochemistry, thermodynamics, acids - bases- and salts, and equilibrium. The course will fulfill one of the science credits required for high school graduation, and will meet the college entrance requirements for laboratory science. This class is designated as a pre-AP course.

## Course Goals:

1. To develop the basic skills of using the scientific method of problem solving.
2. To be thoroughly familiar with safe, efficient, and effective laboratory rules and procedures.
3. To develop laboratory techniques and skills in using lab equipment.
4. To develop skills in using symbols, terms, equations, metric system of measurement, and use of mathematical calculations to express chemistry processes.
5. To develop an understanding of the difference among elements, compounds, and mixtures.
6. To develop an understanding of atomic structure.
7. To develop an understanding of and ability to use the periodic table.
8. To develop an understanding of chemical bonding.
9. To develop an understanding of and skill in writing and naming chemical formulas.
10. To recognize and balance the various types of chemical equations.
11. To develop an understanding of stoichiometry.
12. To develop an understanding of the qualitative and quantitative similarities and differences among gases, liquids, and solids.
13. To develop an understanding of qualitative and quantitative interrelationships of pressure, temperature, and volume of solids and liquids in general, and gases in particular.

14. To develop an understanding of the solution process.
15. To recognize the major differences between acids, bases, and salts.
16. To develop a basic understanding of kinetic theory.
17. To develop a basic understanding in electrochemistry.
18. To have awareness of the occupational opportunities related to chemistry.

## Grading Policy:

Scale: Letter grades will be assigned based on the following grading scale:

100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
59 and below	F

## Distribution:

**Tests:** Tests and quizzes will be administered throughout the course to determine the students' individual progress. Test and quizzes will account for 60% of each quarters grade. Tests will be given at the end of each unit of study. A final exam will be given at the end of each semester. The final will count for 10% of the semester grade. Semester 2 final exam is cumulative for the entire year of study.

**Labs:** It is a requirement of the State to have students create complete lab write ups. The guideline for my write ups are located on my webpage. There will be approximately one formal lab for every unit of study. Labs will emphasize hands on learning in a cooperative environment. Lab groups will not exceed 3 students (if classroom number allow) to help ensure a safe environment. Safety rules will be designated in the beginning of the year, and need to be followed throughout the year. Students who fail a lab for any reason may not participate in the next lab. Any student not participating in a lab will be given an alternative assignment. If one is absent for a lab, the student must schedule a date to do the lab after school in the time frame of one week, if the lab is not rescheduled it will result in a zero. An extensive pre-lab will be located on my webpage, and we will also spend time in class discussing the lab prior to completing it. This pre-lab must be printed out at home and brought to class for guidelines on the lab day (points are issued for this). Labs will be Labs will be collected at the end of each

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quarter for one overall grade and will account for 20% of each quarters grade.

**Homework/Classwork:** Any work assigned during class or sent home will account for 15% of their overall grade. Homework may or may not be collected for a grade.

**Notebooks:** You will be expected to maintain a notebook (3 ring binder) with a spiral notebook inside for chemistry only. There will be random notebook checks administered periodically. This will consist of vocabulary, Questions of the Day's, notes, charts, and worksheets. This will account for 5% of your overall grade as a participation grade.

**Coronado Homework Policy:** We expect that homework be of high quality. Previously assigned work is homework or class work that is assigned prior to an absence. Barring extreme circumstances, previously assigned homework is due the day the student returns.

**Makeup Work Policy:** After any absence (excused or unexcused), a secondary student is required to initiate contact with the teacher to obtain appropriate makeup work within 3 school days immediately following the absence. Once the contact has been made with the teacher a 3 day time length will be given to complete and return materials to the teacher. The makeup work must be returned to me by the specified due date if it is to be acknowledged. A makeup bin is located on my front wall next to the white board.

**Makeup for Test/Exam:** Students who are absent (excused or unexcused) on the day of a previously announced quiz or test must be prepared to take the missed test or quiz immediately upon return (even during class). If students are not given the opportunity to make up the quiz or test during the immediate class period following an absence, the student will have 3 days to schedule an in class or after school make up time. This is enforced to insure fairness to all students, no additional study time should be extended for students who are absent.

**Late Work Policy: (major project/assignments)** A project or major assignment is defined as any assignment whose total point value is at least 10% of a single quarter grade. These assignments have hard due dates. A maximum of 25% of the total possible points may be deducted if turned in one day late (excused or unexcused). A maximum of 50% of the total possible points may be deducted if two days late (excused or unexcused). A maximum of 75% of the total possible points may be deducted if three days late (excused or unexcused). It is up to the

teacher to accept this type of assignment for points after the three days.

**Pre-arranged Work:** Pre-arranged work is due to the teacher the day a student returns from a pre-arranged absence. Extensions may be granted due to extenuating circumstances.

**Partial Day Absence and Due Dates:** Students are expected to turn in due material that day even though you may not have attended class. The student is also responsible for any of the material given that day.

**Mrs. Viscardo's Take:** Students are expected to complete all assignments to the best of their abilities. Expect homework on average 4 nights a week. Expect larger homework to span over several dates. Keeping an accurate agenda will be an important part of success in this class.

This holds true for attendance. Do not expect to pass Chemistry Honors with multiple absences. It is a course that builds from one day to the next, from one unit to the next, from one quarter to the next, etc... If you are absent, be sure to check my website for information, and there is a bin located up front on my gray table with several folders. The folders are numbered and correlate to the date you were out. Pick all of these materials up and complete within the 3 day time frame. Tardies are a disruption to our classroom environment, so give yourself ample time to get to my room. Come prepared for class, know where your work is, start the Question of the Day immediately after the bell rings, and be sure to have materials like notebook, calculators, pencils with you when you come to class. I follow the School's Attendance and Tardy Policy. Grades will be posted on ParentLink, please check your grade weekly for updates. I will not post grades in class except for final semester grades. Do not interrupt class time to ask questions about grades or make up work. You must see me before or after school to discuss these issues.

**Code of Behavior:** If you act sensibly, responsibly, respectfully, and maturely, you will do fine. The following are guidelines to insure a safe and productive year. Failure to adhere to the code will result in disciplinary action.

1. Enter the room quietly and take your seat.
2. Have all required materials ready at the beginning of class.
3. Treat everyone in the class in a respectful manner. Practice patience and compassion. Do not use offensive language. Think before you speak and

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allow others the opportunity to speak. Respect the property of the school and of your classmates.

4. Remain seated until dismissed by me.
5. Listen and follow directions for all activities.

## Disciplinary Actions:

1. Verbal warning
2. Loss of participation in labs/classwork
3. 30 minute detention after school which will be cleaning oriented
4. Phone call/email to parent or Guardian
5. Habitual problems will be referred to the Deans

**Extra Credit Policy:** In conjunction with the other Chemistry Honors teachers, there will be very little extra credit opportunities. We are going to limit the classes to one extra credit project per semester. This can only be granted to those students who do not have missing work. So do not expect to pass the class with extra credit. Do not come in at the end of a grading period asking "what can I do to raise my grade". this opportunity was given with every assignment given.

**Books:** Everyone will be issued a copy of Merrill Chemistry, copy right 1998 publisher Glencoe/Merrill to have at home for reference. These books cost \$60 so take care of them. If not returned by the specified date, a fine of \$60 will be issued.

**Add On Points:** I plan on completing notes in class in a spiral notebook, however I will hand out a re-enforcement note packet that is fill in the blanks for all units. In the evenings after a note taken day, you can use my website or your book to complete this re-enforcement set of notes. If you complete these and turn them in by the test day for the unit, I will grant you Add On Points. They do exactly what they sound like they do. If you completed an assignment, but did not receive a grade you like, you can use these Add On Points to boost the grade. You may not use these to replace a missing assignment or a zero. Each re-enforcement note packet will go into different categories within your grade. Some may be for homework, others for quizzes etc... So be sure to listen at the beginning of each unit for this information.

**Help Sessions:** I will be available after school everyday but Thursdays due to National Honor

Society meetings. Once the year beginning (about half way through quarter 1) my AP Chemistry students will be conducting tutoring sessions: Tuesdays before school in romm905 from 6:30 to 7:00 and Wednesdays after school in room 907 from 1:30 to 2:00. Please take advantage of these sessions. Do not let yourself get behind in this course. If you don't understand something, get it cleared up as soon as possible. We move at a fast pace, and it is important you do not fall behind.

**Citizenship:** This grade will be earned by the student for their actions during each of the four nine week grading periods. It is awarded based on absences, tardies, work ethic, behavior, and quantity of participation points.

O = a student that demonstrates exemplary behavior and has no missing /incomplete assignments. This would include a student that assists others within the class, and helps promote a positive learning environment. This is the highest mark for citizenship, therefore you will have to work to earn it. I issue very few O's.

S = A student that demonstrates the proper motivation to be successful. This student does not hinder the success of other students in the class by disruptions, and completes homework.

N = A student that creates an environment that makes learning difficult for themselves and others. This is also issued when the students has several missing or incomplete assignments. If a student is found to be dishonest (cheating on any material) as a first offense, they will be issued this mark.

U = A student that has the majority of his/her assignment missing or incomplete and or is not reaching their abilities. These marks will be given if disciplinary action needs to be given or if the student endangers the safety to themselves or others while in the classroom.

Please sign the form given to you on the first day. This acknowledges that the student and parent/guardian have read, support, and agree to the expectations written. I look forward to a great year. PLEASE be sure to clearly print the parents email address on the sign sheet as well. Communication: If for any reason you need to speak with me, please email me at [mjviscar@interact.ccsd.net](mailto:mjviscar@interact.ccsd.net) or leave a message with the school operator. Please do not call my classroom phone. Thank you, I look forward to a wonderful year!