



Contact Information

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Carmel HS Science

Office Hours: 7:30-7:50, 3:05-3:30, or by appointment
SRT availability is limited due to other responsibilities.

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Course Description

Chemistry is the study of matter in all of its various combinations. The course will study matter in qualitative and quantitative ways to gain an understanding of the world around us. You will have the opportunity to explore the history of chemistry, important chemical concepts, laboratory exercises, and chemistry's role in society. Chemistry I is a Core 40 and Academic Honors Diploma science course.

Classroom Expectations

A short list of important principles will be applied within the classroom. As mature high school students you should not require a long list of rules to follow. All of your behavior should reflect the classroom principles at all times. Stay positive, be responsible, and be engaged!

1. Respect
2. Responsibility
3. Integrity
4. Honesty
5. Collaboration
6. Safety

The following rules also apply¹:

1. Student Handbook
2. No cell phones or other technology out during class time. Items will be confiscated if necessary.
3. No food or drink.
4. Receive permission before leaving the room.

Materials

I want you to be successful in Chemistry, but you'll have to make sure that you're prepared to be successful too! Make sure to bring these things to class every day:

1. **Textbook** — This is an important resource to bring to class every day.
2. **Scientific Calculator** — Chemistry is a math-based science. You **MUST** have a calculator available at all times. There are no extra calculators in the classroom if you forget your own.
3. **Notebook/Folder/Binder** — Something to organize your papers and take notes with **specifically for this class**.
4. **Pencil or Pen** — Blue or black.

¹ The teacher reserves the right to add additional rules at any time as necessary.

Grading

Grades will be assigned based on the Carmel High School grading scale. Standards will be assessed on a 4-point scale. Projects, labs, and exams will be assessed differently and we will discuss this as they occur in the semester.

Standards Based Grading

Standards

For each unit you will receive a list of “standards,” tasks and concepts that you will be expected to have learned in that chapter. Read these standards and use them to guide your learning through the course because they have been written for that purpose. Each day we will address certain topics that include a small number of standards through the use of notes, activities, labs, etc.

Problem Sets

You will receive a problem set for each unit that is divided into the same topics covered in class. This will include problems from the textbook and additional problems for you to **practice**. Do the problems that you need to prepare for assessments and exams.

Problems may be checked periodically for completion, but will NEVER be collected for “points.” This is only so I may monitor your progress in achieving mastery of the standards.

Assessment

You will be assessed on your ability to meet the standards frequently. This will occur nearly every class period. You can expect questions to be very similar to those in the problem sets (which you should have practiced either in class, SRT, or at home).

Every standard will be assessed at least two times. Once in class and once more on the unit assessment. Additional assessments of a standard may also be given.

Other types of assessments (writing, labs, papers, projects) will be announced accordingly.

Grades are dynamic and reflect your current ability to demonstrate a standard.

- I want you to spend time learning the material and improving.
- I want to reward how much you know.

How can grades change?

- Your grade will be more highly weighted to the your most recent assessment of that standard (decaying average). Receiving a 2/4 on a standard followed by a 4/4 will end with a grade closer to a 4.
- The reverse is also true. It is possible your grade can decrease if your scores on the same standard decrease.

- This means that you must put in the time to learn the material. That includes working through problems and seeking out help. Memorizing and cramming just to get the grade isn't going to work, you are always responsible for previously learned standards.

Reassessment

Reassessments on a standard may be taken after the unit assessment and must be completed within 1 week of the unit assessment which includes that standard. I will allow you to reassess a standard provided the following:

1. One attempt per day (before/after school, SRT, or class).
2. Each attempt is a testing situation. Take it seriously!
3. You must know in advance exactly what standard you want to attempt.
4. You must be able to show me that you've made some effort at improving (e.g. working through problems again, seeking additional help from me, etc.)

Make-Up Policies

You should make up any missed work and assessments immediately upon returning to school. Being absent the day before a test or due date does not excuse you from that test or due date as you will have already have been notified of that date.

Laboratory

Chemistry is a laboratory-based course and, therefore, is best learned when it can be seen and experienced. Laboratory activities will be completed in every unit of the course. Many of these labs will utilize chemical substances that could be potentially hazardous if used carelessly. Great attention will be given in the course to appropriate laboratory procedures, etiquette, and safety precautions. To be successful and safe in the laboratory make sure to do the following:

1. Read and sign the Laboratory Safety Contract.
2. Complete pre-laboratory assignments BEFORE the day of lab.
3. Wear safety goggles at all times.
4. Obey all warnings and safety instructions, particularly regarding chemicals used.
5. Be aware of your surroundings (and the location of your partner).

Because a disregard of safety affects all participants in the laboratory, each class will be allowed 3 warnings per lab activity. Upon the third warning, the class will be instructed to clean the lab area and return to your seats at which time I will demonstrate the lab or provide data. Warnings will be issued for violating any safety rule (including goggles!). Try to be aware of and remind your fellow classmates. Extreme disregard of safety precautions and instructions may result in dismissal from that day's lab activity!

Exams

A midterm exam will be given in a multiple-choice format at the conclusion of the first and third grading period. This exam will account for 20% of your grade and will be focused on the material for that grading period. Missing this midterm exam will result in an Incomplete for the grading period until the exam is taken, and a more rigorous short-answer exam will be given in place of the multiple choice format.

All students must take the final exam for this course (i.e., no “skip-a-final”).

SRT

Currently, the enrollment for SRT exceeds the recommended occupant load for a laboratory as provided by relevant fire codes and safety literature. Even when no labs are conducted this is a laboratory space, and it is my responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of the students in my care. With this in mind, I will not write SRT passes unless I can be assured that the occupant load of this classroom can be maintained at an acceptable number.

The other procedures also apply:

1. No SRT passes will be written on the same day as that SRT.
2. You must have a clear purpose for coming to SRT.
3. Come to SRT prepared and ready to work.
4. Do not come to my classroom without a pass from me.
5. You may come for 1 session only unless I have allowed otherwise.
6. Passes to the library or computer lab will only be given for chemistry projects.

Academic Dishonesty

Cheating and plagiarism compromise the integrity and character of students and does not align with the mission and philosophy of Carmel High School. Academic dishonesty occurs when a student engages in any behavior or uses any unauthorized device (including but not limited to cell phones, calculators, and other electronic devices) which gives the student an unfair advantage or represents another person's work as his/her own. Examples of these behaviors include, but are not limited to plagiarism, talking during assessments, using cheat sheets (paper or electronic), looking at or copying another student's work, and/or relaying information to students in other classes about specific information covered in that class.