

Honors Chemistry

Course Syllabus –Mr. Pollard

Fall/Spring 2009-2010



Course: Chemistry

Text: Chemistry. Connections To Our Changing World. Prentice Hall.

Co/Prerequisites: Algebra 2

Course Goals: Students will develop an understanding of the basic concepts of chemistry including measurement, structure of the atom, quantum theory of electron distribution, the periodic table and the elements, chemical formulas, balancing chemical equations, chemical reactions, the mole, stoichiometry, bonding, polar molecules, solids, liquids, gases, redox reactions, solutions, colloids, and colligative properties.

Methods: Instructional methods will consist of lectures, multimedia presentations, small group problem solving, special projects, laboratory work, and other methods to maximize concept development and student growth in chemistry. Students will be afforded class time for active questioning and for guided problem-solving. Honors Chemistry students will be responsible for a greater depth of understanding of the material, consistent with the credit received for honors courses. Some of the labs may require students to work on portions of their labs after school. Since labs are conducted by pairs of students, missing a lab is not fair to you to your partner since some labs may take two or more days to complete. Honor students should make every effort to be present for labs and schedule routine appointments at a time other than on lab days as indicated on the planner.

Materials: A 1 ½ inch three ring binder dedicated to the subject of chemistry, 10 divider sheets with tabs, notebook paper, graph paper, a 12 inch ruler with both metric and English scales, blue or black pens, pencils, colored pencils, and a scientific calculator. A bound quadrille notebook will be required to take data/notes for labs. Materials required for projects will be noted in the project directions. Students are required to bring to each class the textbook and these basic items.

Assignments: Students will be provided a planner showing which lessons will be covered each day, the schedule for tests, and the lessons through which each test covers. **It is mandatory that all students read the lesson(s) prior to coming to class!** Chemistry is not the Mt. Everest of science subjects, **but** it does require the student to read the material before the explanation is given in class. Coming into class on a “wing and a prayer” will certainly fulfill your most anxious expectations about chemistry! Each term, students will be given a sheet with the homework assignments for that term. Due dates will be posted on the blackboards. **All assignments are due as scheduled. Assignments submitted later than scheduled (except for absences as noted below) will not be accepted, as this is a Level 3 course.** Students are encouraged to work together and to seek help from the teacher as required, but the recorded solution or answer to the homework problem must be their own work. Quizzes will be administered on a routine basis, but may not be announced. Honors students by definition are expected to turn in all homework assignments on time. I may request that certain labs be typed (word processed).

Evaluation: The student planner shows the schedule of tests. There will be a test after each Unit. Tests count for 50% of the half-term grade. There will be one extra-credit project which will count as a test grade. Homework and class participation will count for 10% of the half-term grade, quizzes 25%, and laboratory work/reports, the remaining 15%. Weekly grades are cumulative and will account for 80% of each half term grade with the mid-term/final exam counting for 20% of the half-term grades. The average of both half-term grades will determine the final course grade.

Make-up Work: The Parent/Student handbook gives general guidelines for making up missing work. **The primary responsibility for making up missed work rests with the student.** The following specific procedures class should be noted:

- **For absences of fewer than three academic days** - All homework due during the period of absence will be graded by the student and submitted upon return to class. Missed tests and quizzes will be made up **after school** within as short of time as practicable.
- **For longer, unplanned absences** – Students will submit a written proposal with a timetable for the makeup of missed work. The proposal/timetable will be reviewed and approved or amended by the teacher, and must then be executed by the student. Failure to meet the timetable will result in a grade of zero being assigned for that particular piece of homework, quiz, or test.
- **For extended planned absences** – Students are responsible for determining, completing, and submitting all assignments due during the absence **prior to their departure.**
- **Students missing a lab** – If a student has missed a portion of a lab, the student must get with his/her lab partner to obtain the data and discuss the results of the lab. If a student misses an entire lab, a date and time for the makeup of missed labs will be announced in sufficient time for students to arrange their afternoon schedules. Missed lab assignments will be made up after school. If the student misses the makeup lab because of scheduling conflicts, a zero for that lab will be assigned unless prior arrangements have been previously made with me.

PCHS Honor Code: The PCHS Honor Code is based on the premise that PCHS students will not cheat, lie, or steal, nor tolerate those who do. During the Chemistry course, the following expectations will apply:

- **Tests and Quizzes:** All work must be performed individually using only the resources specifically authorized by the teacher. In this regard, use of a calculator is authorized.
- **Projects:** All work must be performed by the individual or individuals (group projects if permitted) who submit the project. Written portions of a project must be in accordance with MLA format.
- **Lab Reports:** All work must be performed by the student or students submitting the report. Students will generally be assigned to a group for Lab work. Students or students in a group may work cooperatively with one another or with other groups but their lab report may not be a copy of some other student's or group's work.
- **Homework assignments:** Students are encouraged to complete homework assignments cooperatively with other students, teachers, parents, mentors, and tutors as a means to enhance the learning and mastery of the process. By their nature, homework assignments are “open book.” **On the other hand, the mere copying of another's work for submission and grading is prohibited by the Honor Code.**