

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT 2011-12

SUBJECT: CHEMISTRY

INSTRUCTOR: MRS. DENSLEY, MS. USHER, MR. GILLESPE, MS. CALL

Please read the following material, share this information with your parent(s) or guardian(s), sign the related form, and return it to the instructor. Keep this copy **all year** for reference. Ask questions as needed.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVE:

Chemistry is the study of atoms, ions, molecules, and their reactions. Learning chemistry can be very rewarding. Even the beginning student can relate the macroscopic world, the observations of things around us, to the submicroscopic chemistry world of atoms, ions, and molecules. The nature, behavior, and interaction of these particles explain the properties of materials. The student will learn and apply these ideas to assorted problems and situations. This provides an opportunity for the development of problem-solving skills that are beneficial in any profession. Chemistry can be challenging for beginning students because they do not know how to apply their mathematical skills to new situations. The required mathematical skills with their applications will be emphasized.

HONOR CODE:

Students are expected to be honest. Cheating is anything that gives a student a higher grade besides individual performance and learning. A dishonest student can find many ways to cheat. **Even though we encourage collaboration with other students for learning sake, students are expected to do their own work. In particular, tests, quizzes, and reports should be entirely the student's own work.** Any prior access (e.g., asking a student from an earlier class the contents of a test) to that material is cheating too. *Cheating on anything is subject to a zero (0) on that item. Cheating on two or more items is subject to a failing mark (F) for the trimester.*

GRADING POLICY:

Tests determine how much a student has learned during the trimester and assignments represent student effort. Grading scale in % is as follows: **A** 93-higher, **A-** 90-92, **B+** 87-89, **B** 83-86, **B-** 80-82, **C+** 77-79, **C** 73-76, **C-** 70-72, **D+** 67-69 **D** 60-66, **F** 0-59 **and is based strictly on points from.**

- A. Tests. This includes quizzes (10 to 100 pts. each), unit tests (about five per trimester) (200 + pts. each), and a Final exam (one per trimester) (200 + pts.)
- B. Assignments (The overall assignment plan is on the board or in a handout). This may include homework checks (10 to 30 pts. each), and labs and assignments (10 to 100 pts. each). **Within the first week, assignments may be penalized 50% for being late.** Students will occasionally grade or correct the assignments, quizzes, and labs of other students. The grader compares the grading rubric with the student's answers. This allows each student to review the material, deliberate other problem solving approaches, and consider alternate ways of answering questions. After the grading session, papers are passed back to the owner to allow immediate feedback. The resulting discussion clarifies possible misconceptions and reviews the lab, quiz, or assignment being graded. Students are welcome and invited to dispute any incorrect grading with the teacher who will make the final judgment. Papers will be turned in for recording by the teacher. No scores will be called out in class.
- C. Most of the homework is completed on the website www.webassign.net/login.html which allows for individual student assignments and immediate feedback on their answers. **The written work or solutions to those answers will be turned in.** The homework is posted well in advance of the due date and 1-5 submissions are allowed. Students who do not have internet access at home have the option of printing their homework assignment at school, working on the assignment at home, and submitting their answers online at school. Students should download (open) and get a hard copy of their assignment as soon as it is available. Students should make submissions early so they can ask questions and get help in class before making their final submissions. **Extensions may be granted for extenuating circumstances.**

Complete assignments are graded regularly. A complete assignment means the question and the answer are discernible without a text. **A zero score may be recorded for failing to have an assignment prepared on time or for neglecting to take a test at the time it is given.** Quizzes and preparedness checks might not be announced before the event. Make up tests (*for absences*) will cover the same material but may be in a different format.

MAKE-UP:

This usually means doing what was missed and getting appropriate credit. **For planned absences** (such as school activities, doctor appointments, or vacations) the **make-up work** (or a teacher/student plan) **is due before** the absence. For other absences (illness etc.) **it is the student's responsibility to initiate (i.e., see the instructor before or after school) and fulfill make-up requirements.** Some items require showing completed assignments for a "credit only" (*) grade, which is a completed item but is not used in the percentage for the grade. All other items must be completed, graded, and recorded. Extensions for WebAssign may be granted for extenuating circumstances. **Notes and information about the missed class should be obtained from another student. Failure to initiate make-up within two (2) days of the return of the student to school, may forfeit the opportunity.** We will record a zero for each missed item.

ATTENDANCE:

One of the most significant factors affecting school success is regular attendance. Students have the primary responsibility for their own education. The student must be in class on time, and prepared to learn (homework completed, necessary books and supplies ready, and a willing and cooperative attitude) every day in order to take full advantage of their educational opportunity. *Doing makeup assignments can NEVER compensate for the classroom experiences (demonstrations, labs, and discussions) that students miss while absent.* **As per Brighton High School's attendance policy, failure to attend class may result in loss of credit for this course. Please see Brighton's Attendance Policy for details.**

Students should assume that assignments are progressing during absences and make a reasonable attempt to keep up. For example, if a student is absent both days before a test, the student would be required to take the test on time.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR (rules). We institute these rules to promote safety, optimize learning, and remove distractions for both the teacher and students. Students will:

- **study chemistry during class. Do not: bring cell phones or other electronic devices (except calculators) to class. VIOLATIONS WILL RESULT CONFISCATION OF THE DEVICE AND REFERRAL TO THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL.** Do not play games; work on class work from another subject; or do anything which distracts from studying chemistry. Continue chemistry work until dismissed by the teacher (not the bell) at the end of the class period.
- pay attention to and respect the instructor and students during class discussion or lecture. (This really helps learning.) Exhibit common courtesy. Participation maximizes everyone's learning experience.
- **not eat food, chew gum, or drink beverages** (including water) in class. Please discuss legitimate options with the teacher if you have special needs (such as diabetes etc.).
- follow safety rules in laboratory or similar settings. This includes wearing appropriate footwear, goggles, and safety clothing as needed.
- be honest. Refrain from any deception or cheating in all you do and say. (See Honor Code.)
- read the text, complete and study all assignments (average of 30 to 60 min. outside class each day).
- bring the appropriate textbook, paper, calculator, and writing tools daily. **Bring pencils on test days.**
- obey all school rules. Dress codes (including no hats) and other Canyons District directives apply to the classroom.
- refrain from inappropriate talking, abusive or offensive language. Do not belittle or tease other students.

OTHER:

- **STUDENTS MUST PAY \$20 FOR THE LAB FEE TO THE OFFICE AND RETURN THE RECEIPT TO THE INSTRUCTOR.**
- **A scientific calculator** would be the most beneficial but a regular 6-function calculator will work most of the time.
- The instructor may be contacted at any time via email: kathleen.densley@canyonsdistrict.org, melissa.usher@canyonsdistrict.org, or brittany.call@canyonsdistrict.org or by phone between 7am – 3pm at 801-826-5800 and leaving a message. All effort will be made to reply within 24 hours of receipt of message.

MS. CALL'S SUGGESTIONS:

- **My website: <http://my.uen.org/105946>.** Use it to access the classroom calendar, documents and worksheets, suggestions for success.
- Take daily notes and keep them organized in a binder. Keep all your resources.
- Chemistry is tough. Study daily; you will need to review the book, your notes, and homework daily to check your comprehension and make sure it sinks in.

PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION TO YOUR INSTRUCTOR

We, the undersigned, have read and understand the policies relating to the Chemistry program at Brighton High School.

parent/guardian signature

student (please print)

date

student signature

class period

Parent/Guardian Contact Information:

Father _____ Home Phone _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Mother _____ Home Phone _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Guardian _____ Home Phone _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Parent/Guardian email _____

Anything we should know in order to help your student succeed?

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