



Honors Chemistry Course Statement 2019-2020



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Room: Science Lab J217

Dear Parents and Students

Welcome to Casteel High School. My name is Mrs. Kaplan. As I hope to have the opportunity of introducing myself to each of you individually soon, let me take this opportunity to introduce you to the class.

This letter intends to give you general information about what you can expect in Honors Chemistry this year. In this syllabus, you will find my classroom rules and consequences, classroom guidelines, and grading policies. A science safety contract will be coming home to you over the next few days. Please take time to review these policies with your child. I ask that both you and your child sign the appropriate places signifying consent and understanding and return.

Course Description:

Chemistry is a laboratory based science course designed to provide students with a comprehensive investigative foundation of the chemical nature of the world around us from the atomic and molecular level to the macroscopic level of our surroundings. Course goals are that students will:

- ◆ **Apply the knowledge of major themes in chemistry to analyze problems and evaluate given situations.**
- ◆ **Use scientific methodology to solve problems, collect and analyze data, and communicate findings.**
- ◆ **Conduct scientific research inside and outside the classroom.**

Students will conduct a variety of relevant and “hands-on” chemistry investigations. These investigations emphasize experimental design, data analysis and application of concepts learned. We will also use technology throughout the class as a tool for collecting, analyzing and presenting data.

Topics Discussed:

- ◆ **The Nature of Chemistry:** Matter, thermochemistry, scientific method, and measurement.
- ◆ **The Structure of Matter:** Atomic structure, electron configurations, and the periodic table of elements.
- ◆ **Interactions of Matter:** Kinetics, chemical formulas, bonding, molecular shapes and chemical reactions and equations.
- ◆ **Stoichiometry:** The mole and the math of chemical equations.
- ◆ **States of Matter:** Chemistry of gases, solids, and liquids.
- ◆ **Acids and Bases:** Chemistry of acids, bases and salts.
- ◆ **The Chemistry of Life:** Introduction to organic chemistry.

Required Materials:

- ✓ *Pencils and pens* (daily writing tool of choice)
- ✓ *1 1/2” 3-Ring Binder* – For notes, handouts, homework, etc.
- ✓ *Dividers* – Set of 5 – Labeled: Warm Up, Handouts, Homework, Labs, Review Guides
- ✓ *A Notebook*- needed to take notes in
- ✓ *Scientific Calculator* – Students will be most successful if they bring their own calculator on a daily basis.
- ✓ *Loose leaf paper*- For homework
- ✓ *Student Planner*

Grading Policy: Quarter grades are calculated from the student’s test scores, quizzes, lab reports, and homework. Grades for this class are weighted. Tests are worth 40%, Labs/Quizzes are worth 40% and homework is worth 20% of the overall quarter grade. Late work is NOT acceptable. Please get your work turned in, in a timely manner. If an assignment is 1-2

days late, it will automatically be graded as a 50%. Anything past 2 days late, will be an automatic *zero* in the gradebook. Incomplete or messy work will result in a reduction of points. It is the students' responsibility to get homework or make-up work for excused absences. There will be an opportunity for test re-takes, once corrections and re-learning has been completed. Test re-takes must be scheduled with the teacher. There will be no opportunity for quiz retakes.

Semester grades are calculated as follows:

First Quarter = 40%

Second Quarter = 40%

Final Exam = 20%

Attendance: It is important to be present every day in class. Your grade will reflect your attendance in this class. You must be in your seat prepared for class before the bell rings or you will be marked tardy. Tardiness will not be tolerated and is subject to consequences. Your child may be at risk of being dropped from the class if he/she accumulates 11 absences per semester (school policy).

Late work and Make-Up Policy:

- It is the student's responsibility to obtain missed work. Please see Mrs. Kaplan/website/google classroom to obtain missed work.
- Many labs will consist of consumable materials, so timely make-ups are imperative. Labs must be made up within 1-week of the absence and by appointment only.
- If the student has an excused absence they have as many days as they were gone in order to turn in the work missed for no penalty. Any work turned in past that will follow the late work policy. The teacher reserves the right to not accept absent work from an unexcused absence.

Need Extra Help: If a student would like extra help on an assignment or is having difficulty with the current topic, he/she may come in for extra help during advisory period by obtaining a pass prior to the advisory period. Tutoring after school is by appointment only and needs to be pre-arranged. Students staying after school for tutoring will also need to make sure they have transportation home. Otherwise students may drop in before school after 6:50 a.m. for help.

Assignment Organization: The student is responsible to keep up with his/her work to ensure it is not stolen, lost, or misplaced.

Cell Phones and electronic devices: Teacher reserves the right to ask student to put any electronic device away, out of sight. If the student fails to do so there will be a referral sent to administration for defiant behavior. I only ask that students be respectful to me and their learning time.

*****Students will not be allowed to use a cell phone as a calculator.*****

Student Success: This Chemistry course can be quite challenging. Students sometimes are not successful for a number of reasons, including: 1. not having a calculator. 2. not being organized. 3. not asking for extra help when needed. 4. being too social. 5. poor attendance. I promise to do my best to help your student succeed.

Safety: For your safety, food and drinks are not permitted in class. **Gum is NEVER permitted.** Bottled water is permitted. Any unsafe behavior in the lab is cause for immediate removal from all lab activities.

I believe learning should be a positive experience. *Students*, you are expected to make an honest effort, to achieve to the best of your ability and maintain a positive attitude. Please let me know what I can do for you and your success in Chemistry. *Parents and guardians*, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding your child or the course. Together we can make this a great year.

Behavioral Choices, Consequences and Guidelines:

1. If you are not in your assigned seat when the bell rings you are considered tardy. Tardy students will be required to serve lunch school detention. Failure to show up for lunch detention may result in heavier consequences.
 - 1st tardy: Free
 - 2nd tardy: Free
 - 3rd– 5th tardy: Lunch Detention & Parent Contact
 - 6th and up: Administrative action
2. Cheating will NOT be tolerated. If cheating occurs, the student must make arrangements with me within 3 days, in order to re-take an alternative assessment. If the alternative assessment is not completed, the resulting grade will be a zero. If cheating is suspected, parent contact will be made immediately.

3. Please use the restroom and get a drink before you come to class.
4. Profanity will not be tolerated in the classroom.
5. Students who disrupt and interfere with other student's rights to learn or my right to teach or the safety of themselves and/or others will also be required to serve detention, have their parents notified, and/or be referred to an administrator.
 - 1st offense: Warning
 - 2nd offense: In school detention
 - 3rd offense: Student conduct referral, administrative action and parent contact

As the student, you are responsible for reading and understanding all of the information included in this handout. Keep this copy in your binder for reference.

School Rules

All school rules are enforced in this classroom.



YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR SUCCESS AND LEARNING!!!

Infinite Campus availability/access

Parents can access their child's grades and assignments by going to the school's website and clicking on the Parent Portal for Infinite Campus. Parents may contact office personnel/counselor for their child's password.

Diversity Statement

All individuals have a right to an educational environment free from bias, prejudice and bigotry. As members of the Casteel High School educational community, students are expected to refrain from participating in acts of harassment that are designed to demean another student's race, gender, ethnicity, religious preference, disability or sexual orientation.

I am very excited about the upcoming year. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to reach me at:
Email: kaplan.kendra@cusd80.com

Sincerely,
Kendra Kaplan

Course Statement Acknowledgement 2019-2020



I acknowledge that I have read over the course statement, classroom procedures and rules agreement for Chemistry. I understand the student's role and responsibilities associated with the course. I understand that if I have any questions or concerns regarding the course grade, content, or requirements, I can contact the teacher.

Student Signature _____

Date: _____

Print Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date: _____

Print Name _____

Contact phone number _____

Email address _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date: _____

Print Name _____

Contact phone number _____

Email address _____

This course will utilize the Internet at school for research purposes. Please sign below to give your child permission to use the Internet in accordance with the Basha High School Internet Use Policy, which may be found in the Student Planner. **This paper is for my file only and does not replace the Internet Access Permission Form found in the Student Planner, which must be turned in also.**

Please mark by signing below

_____ Yes, I give my daughter/son permission to participate in Internet Activities.

_____ No, I do not give my daughter/son permission to participate in Internet Activities.