

# GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT CHEMISTRY

Dr. Meredith Foley

September 1, 2022

Dear AP Chemistry Student,

Welcome to Advanced Placement Chemistry! This is an intensive college-level course that will provide you with a deeper understanding of the fundamental chemistry concepts that help make possible our modern world. Course topics include stoichiometry, states of matter, atomic structure, molecular structure and bonding, thermochemistry, equilibria, and kinetics. This course will also help you to further develop quantitative problem-solving skills as well as your laboratory technique. It is fast-paced course that will require you to work diligently. I encourage you to ask many questions and to seek extra help from me. The more time spent understanding and applying chemistry concepts to problem solving, the more confident you will be. I wish you a very successful and rewarding academic year.

This class is unlike most of your regular high school courses. It is recognized by the College Board as providing a college-level experience. Just as importantly, your diligent application in the course can result in a mark in the year-end AP exam sufficient to earn college credit at the institution of your choice. Remember Chemistry is often a requirement in college not only for most scientific disciplines but also for related majors like medicine, dentistry, and engineering. Gaining AP credit can, therefore, possibly save you and your parents thousands of dollars and allow you more quickly to take higher level courses to advance in your major course of study.

### Class Materials

1. Textbook: Zumdahl & Zumdahl. *AP Edition Chemistry*, Cengage, 9<sup>th</sup> Ed., ISBN-10# 1-133-61110-9
2. Graphing or Scientific Calculator (check the list of approved AP calculators on this website: <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/takingtheexam/exam-policies/calculator-policy> )
3. Notebook and folder or Binder with loose-leaf
4. Pen and Pencil
5. Chromebook for virtual learning activities that is fully charged

### General Classroom Rules

- All students must be on time for class.
- All announcements, handouts, and review materials will be posted to Google Classroom. Students must check this website daily for important course information.
- In a double-period class, we will continuously work through the first period bell.
- If you are absent on a double-period lab day that will count as two absences.
- Field Trips are optional. Missing an AP class will require you to make up an enormous amount of work. You need to decide beforehand if you can afford to miss this class.
- If you are going on a field trip or other activity involving an absence, you ***must*** notify me before you go. You must make up the work as soon as possible. There is no time to review missed material during regular class periods.
- If you miss an exam, you will be expected to take it the day you return.

## Virtual Learning Resources

In addition to our textbook, we will utilize two other digital platforms for the course. These are the College Board's AP Classroom and Carnegie Mellon University's Open Learning Initiative for General Chemistry. Both resources contain content summaries and practice problems. Virtual laboratory simulations are also embedded in the Carnegie Mellon resource. Periodically, work will be assigned on both of these web platforms. Separate instructions will be provided for creating accounts and accessing both of these online systems.

## Grading

- Tests and quizzes will be given on a regular basis.
- There is no extra credit in this class.
- The development of laboratory skills is an important part of chemistry and is assessed on the AP exam. We will fulfill this important course component through a combination of wet-lab and virtual experiments. These experiments will be followed by either a short data sheet or a formal lab report. The emphasis in this class will be on completing the demanding AP college-level curriculum. As a result, it will not be possible to do nearly as many laboratory experiments as you did in your first-year chemistry course. After the AP exam in May, however, we will catch up on our experimental program.
- All Students will be required to take a midterm and a final exam.
- **Grading percentages:**  
**Please Note: *This grading policy is subject to modification and may change at any time in the event that there is a significant change to our schedule/method of instruction.***
- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter; Tests 60%, Labs 20%, Homework & Quizzes 15%, Summer Assignment 5%.
- Quarters 2-3: Tests 60%, Labs 20%, Homework & Quizzes 20%.
- Quarter 4: Tests 20%, Labs 70%, and Homework & Quizzes 10%

**Extra Help** will be held in Room 200 on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 7 am. Other times are available by appointment.

I cannot stress the importance of reading the textbook and completing all homework assignments. These will be essential for your success in this course. It will be up to you to seek extra help for the problems you do not understand. Please contact me if you are struggling with any topic. Do not wait until the day before a test. Never be afraid to ask a question in class about the course material. If you have the question, more than likely someone else has the same question or will have it as he or she completes the homework assignments.

I know that this course is very challenging. However, it will also enable you to see the relevance and beauty of Chemistry. It has justly been called the “**Central Science**” because it helps you to understand so many facets of other sciences and science-related studies.

**After reading this letter, please complete the form at the bottom below and have your parent/guardian sign the bottom. Submit the completed form in class by Friday, September 2, 2022.** This contract can be found on the class webpage for future reference.

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**I have read the course requirements and understand what is necessary to be successful in this class.**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent (Guardian) Signature \_\_\_\_\_