

HONORS CHEMISTRY I COURSE PROSPECTUS – MS. DUNCAN – 2017 – 2018 SCHOOL YEAR

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION:

- * by e-mail: christa.duncan@cms.k12.nc.us
- * by phone: 980-343-5390
- * in person: set up by appointment

WHAT IS CHEMISTRY?

Chemistry is the study of matter. We will study the structure, composition, and changes in matter. Additionally, our studies will include how energy is transformed when matter undergoes changes. Students will be introduced to the mathematical nature of matter, and verify this nature in laboratory experiments. Throughout the semester, the scientific method will be used incorporating process skills (observation, math skills, measurement, classification, inferring) that are fundamental to the study of science. The higher level thinking skills of students (analysis, synthesis, evaluation) will be developed through lab activities, problem solving, writing, technology, and reading.

INFORMATION REQUEST:

Parents/Guardians need to fill out some background information about how I can contact them. Please have your parents fill out the google form at: <https://tinyurl.com/duncancheminfo>

MATERIALS & SUPPLIES:

- ~ 2" three-ring binder
- ~ scientific or graphing calculator
- ~ any notes, worksheets, labs, etc. needed for the day*
- ~ notebook paper
- ~ colored pencils
- ~ pen and pencil
- ~ copy of the Chemistry Reference Tables

* Students are responsible for their own success in my class. Students will have to keep up with their assignments. Most of the handouts that students will use in Chemistry I class can be found on the internet. I have a website where all of the materials that students need can be found. The website address is:

<http://www.msducanchem.com>

TUTORING:

- ~ On most Mondays and Tuesdays, I will offer tutoring from **2:30 to 3:15** in Room 216.
- ~ If a student wants to stay after school for tutoring, he or she should make arrangements with the teacher during the school day to be sure that there are no scheduling conflicts.
- ~ Wednesday afternoons are reserved for faculty and department meetings.
- ~ I am almost always at school by 6:30 in the morning.

GRADING:

A student's grade will be determined by dividing the number of points earned by the number of points possible. Each assignment will be given a point value based on the difficulty of the assignment. All assignments that are checked for completion will be entered under the category "Informal". All assignments that are checked for accuracy will be entered under the category "Formal". Informal grades will count as 30% of a student's average and formal grades will count as 70% of a student's average. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg grading scale will be used. (100-90 = A, 89-80 = B, 79-70 = C, 69-60 = D, 59-0 = F)

All students have the chance to make corrections on all tests (except the midterm and final). You have the opportunity to earn back one quarter for every point that you missed. Students can attend tutorials in order to get help with the content to complete the exam corrections. **You have 5 school days from the day the exam was returned to do so. After that, the grade you earned stands.**

MAKE-UP & LATE WORK:

A student has 5 days to make arrangements for his or her make up work following an absence. For extended absences, a schedule will be created to ensure all assignments are completed.

Assignments that are turned in will be graded for accuracy. Every effort should be made by the student to have the work completed by the due date. If a student does not turn in an assignment on time, he or she can turn it in later the same school day or the school day immediately following the due date for a maximum of 75% credit. If a student turns in an assignment two days after the due date (turns in on Wednesday when assignment was due on Monday), he or she can earn a maximum of 50% credit. After two days, no credit will be given for late work.

HONORS LEVEL DIFFERENTIATION:

Students in Honors level Chemistry are required to complete an Honors project. Additionally, students in Honors level Chemistry study several enrichment topics throughout the course. These topics include: electron energy calculations (Unit 4), quantum numbers (Unit 4), hybrid orbitals (Unit 6), hydrates (Unit 7), limiting reactant (Unit 9), K_a calculations (Unit 14), ΔG calculations (Unit 15), and identifying types of nuclear reactions (Unit 16). All of these topics relate to chemistry, but are not tested on the NC Final Exam. Honors level students will be tested on these enrichment topics.