**Pre-AP Chemistry**

**Bentonville High School**

**Teacher: Jacob Smith**

**Room: 249 (2), 258 (5) and 257 (3)**

**School Phone: 479-254-5100**

**Email: jsmith@bentonvillek12.org**

Course Description

Chemistry is a laboratory course that studies the composition of matter and the changes that matter undergoes. Chemistry is sometimes called the “Central Science” because it is involve in every other area of science and the skills obtained in studying chemistry are portable to other areas. Indeed, it is an excellent vehicle for fostering scientific awareness and developing critical thinking skills.

Due to the fact that chemistry is an experimental discipline the course also has a strong laboratory component. Labs will require analysis and interpretation of data as well as possible statistical treatments. Additionally, many core concepts in chemistry require mathematical manipulation for complete understanding and relation to other topics. Because of this, a working knowledge of algebra is essential.

Supplies

The following supplies are required for class each day: textbook, supply of paper, pencil or pen, and scientific calculator. A pencil will be required on major exam days and pens will be needed on lab days.

Grading Policy

Cumulative grades are assigned as dictated by the student handbook according to the following scale:

 90% - 100% A

 80% - 89% B

 70% - 79% C

 60% - 69% D

 Under 60% F

Grades will be calculated continuously throughout the semester and a current snapshot will be sent home at the end of the first quarter. Assisted work will account for 30% of the continuous semester grade and consists of laboratory reports and special projects. Unassisted work will account for 70% of the continuous semester grade and consists of test, quizzes, and semester exam. The semester exam will be given in several parts over the last few weeks of school and all students will take this exam. Other assignments essential to the learning process will be assigned and evaluated but will not contribute to the official grade, even though they may appear in the parent grade viewer.

Makeup Work

The policy of this class is that you are accountable for all work assigned while you were gone. It is your responsibility to ensure that you receive any relevant information about the assignments and complete them in a timely manner, as agreed upon between you and the instructor. Every effort will be made to post notes and documents for you to obtain on the class website and/or the class blog and you can also obtain them from students who were present in some cases. Questions about makeup work must be handled on your own time, unless we are still discussing those concepts in class when you return. Any work not completed in the agreed upon time frame will be treated as late work and will be subject to the penalties laid out in that section.

Late Work

Completing tasks in the time frame assigned is a sign of responsibility and maturity and will also be expected of you as you move out into the workforce. However, it is also important to learn to finish a task, even if it is not initially completed as required. Assisted assignments not completed in the allowed time frame for which no extension has been discussed and granted will incur a 50% penalty if received within two class periods of the due date. Beyond that the assignments will receive no credit. Any unassisted assignments that are missed must have an agreed upon date for completion and be completed by that date for credit.

Laboratory Work

Students are expected to come into the lab prepared. Students should have adequately completed any pre-lab assignments prior to the beginning of class. Goggles/safety glasses will be worn in the lab at all times, as will closed-toe shoes. Students failing to wear the goggles or appropriate shoes will be asked to leave the lab for the remainder of the class period. Students will have the opportunity to make up missed labs by either watching a recording of the experiment or by obtaining data from the instructor. The student will then be responsible for completing all calculations and/or questions regarding the lab in the time frame set by the instructor. Work not completed in this time frame will be regarded as late work and subject to penalty.

Truancy and Tardiness

The BHS policy for tardiness and truancy will be followed (see student handbook). Electronic records of tardiness will be kept in the grade book and should be visible in the online parent grade viewer.

Attendance

Failure to attend class regularly can have a negative impact on your grade and can result in loss of credit in the extreme. For these reasons it is strongly suggested that absences be limited only to necessary situations. The BHS attendance policy will be observed (see student handbook).

Classroom Expectations and Consequences

Expectations for behavior are posted in the classroom, but they can be generally expressed in the following ideas: respect yourself and others and be a responsible and productive member of the class. BHS policies (see student handbook) for discipline will be followed and consequences are posted in the classroom. Major infractions will result in immediate referral to the appropriate assistant principal.

Food and Drinks

Food and drinks are not allowed in the lab at any time.

Contacting the Instructor

Students with questions about assignments and other issues have two options to reach the instructor. The first and best option is to email the instructor at the email address above. Responses are usually sent within 24 hours, excluding weekends. The second option is to come by in person to discuss the matter on the student's own time. Students may also, if they wish, leave a voice message at the number listed above. However, this is the least desirable method and will likely have the longest delay for an answer.

Parents are encouraged to contact the instructor in the same ways mentioned above with any concerns or questions. Initial contact is preferred through email if possible, as it is more accessible and is checked more frequently. Phone and/or face-to-face conferences can be arranged if desired according to the availability of the instructor.

**Electronic Device Policy**

The use of electronic devices in the classroom can enrich and extend learning if used in a responsible manner. Devices may be used when expressly directed or when completing a routine assignment where devices are permitted as a matter of course. Devices must remain in hand or on the desktop during use. Use of the devices during disallowed times or for disallowed purposed is prohibited and will result in seizure of the device. Additionally students are expected to use devices in accordance with the school-wide device policy at all times.