OTHS Pre-AP CHEMISTRY

Course Guidelines and Expectations

## TEACHER INFORMATION

**Teacher: Phone: Email Address:**

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## DESCRIPTION

### This course prepares the student for entry into a university/college level chemistry course and/or AP Chemistry as a second high school chemistry class. All instructors of the course employ the same unit plan and course materials. There may be slight variations in day-to-day activity, but all work and assessments are the same.

**CANVAS AND WEBSITE**

The course is run through **CANVAS**. Additionally, we host most of our course materials on our website, [www.falconchem.weebly.com](http://www.falconchem.weebly.com). **CANVAS** contains announcements, teacher videos/lectures, daily class handouts, unit resources, notes, detailed calendar, and many other useful items. **Students are required to monitor CANVAS daily.**

## COURSE FORMAT

### Students begin new learning at home prior to coming to class by taking high quality notes from our video lectures. Next is a detailed discussion and/or activity pertinent to the video contents at the beginning of class the following school day. Most units contain 40-65 minutes worth of video material which students are encouraged to view as many times as they wish over the course of the unit. *Why do this?* Teachers are able to offer more personalized guidance and interaction with students. We can complete more labs and hands-on activities in a unit of study. Our track record shows that our students learn more and have more success than they would in a traditional classroom setting. (See class website for more information about the setup)

**SUPPLIES YOU NEED**

* **Composition book** (all video notes are in this

composition book; only write on the RIGHT side)

* 3 ring binder with dividers
* Notebook paper
* Pencils and pens
* Scientific calculator

**SUPPLIES WE NEED (you bring!)**

* Students may donate any of these:
* Hand sanitizer and/or 409
* Roll of paper towels
* Tissues
* Post it notes

**GRADES and SCORING**

Letter grades are assigned according to district grading handbook policy (i.e. a grading period score of 90 or greater is an A.

Tests: 60%

Labs/Quizzes: 30%

Daily Work: 10%

= 100%

Katy ISD defines success as a **C or greater**. Students who fail to maintain a grading period average of 75 or above will meet with their instructor and/or counselor about course placement. We wish to keep any student in the course who is willing and able to do the work required to gain success.

**LABS**

* All students will complete a lab safety assessment and will demonstrate mastery of the safety rules in order to participate in subsequent lab activities.
* Personal protective equipment (PPE, usually closed toe shoes, goggles, and an apron) must be worn in the lab setting as required by the teacher. Students who neglect to adhere to teacher safety guidelines may lose up to 20% of the lab score for failure to follow state mandated science safety standards.
* Purposeful unsafe behavior during lab activities will result in removal from the lab and a discipline referral.

**TURNING IN ASSIGNMENTS**

* Turning in assignments on hand written or other paper than the hand out provided by the teacher will result in an **automatic 15% grade penalty**. In case of a lost hand out, students are welcome and encouraged to print a new copy of the handout using CANVAS or the website where all documents and resources are readily available for all units.

**ABSENCES, LATE WORK, AND MAKEUP WORK**

* Course expectations regarding absences, late work, and makeup work are per district grading handbook policy.
* Additionally, late work must be handed in before a student sits for a unit test.
* **Students who have been absent are responsible for checking CANVAS for missed assignments.** Students will schedule any make-up work with the teacher before or after class upon their return**.**
* **Per KISD policy, work assigned prior to the absence is due on the first return day, including tests.**
* If you are absent for a test, the test must be taken upon your return if no new information has been presented in your absence. Plan to take the test on the day you return to school. If new information has been presented, the standard two days per day missed (in which new information has been presented) are allotted.
* Make-up work may be of an alternate version.
* **IMPORTANT:** All homework and assignments are posted and assigned in the calendar in CANVAS at the beginning of each unit. Documents and resources pertaining to calendar posted assignments are also available in CANVAS and the website.
* **When students are absent for ANY reason, if an assignment due date was posted in CANVAS, students are still expected to turn in the assigned work on the required posted due date or ON THE DAY that they come back if the assignment was due during their absence**. Failure to turn in the work will result in a late grade penalty per KISD grading handbook policy.

**SCHOOL RELATED / UIL EXTRA CURRICULAR ABSENCES**

* **If an absence is due to any school related / UIL extracurricular activity, students should make prior arrangements for work and make up work at least 2 days BEFORE being absent.**
* Students are EXPECTED to check CANVAS prior to their absence and DURING their absence. Using the CANVAS calendar and resources and the materials provided by the teacher prior to the absence, students are expected to keep up with all missed work during their absence.
* **Per KISD policy, work assigned prior to the absence is due on the first return day, including tests.**
* Per KISD policy, If you are absent for a test due to extracurricular absences, the test must be taken ON THE DAY OF YOUR RETURN. **Make up tests are given after school so please plan accordingly.**

**RETESTS**

If a student scores below a 70 on a unit test, he/she will be given an opportunity to reassess to increase his/her score according to campus policy up to a 70. Retest date and time will be announced after each unit test and **students are expected to retest on the scheduled day/time**. It is the student’s responsibility to communicate with their teacher about any schedule conflict for retest purposes in a timely manner (Informing the teacher on the day of the retest is NOT acceptable).

**TUTORIALS**

* The tutorial schedule is posted on CANVAS and the website.

**CLASSROOM POLICY**

* Do the work assigned.
* Treat your peers and the room with respect, kindness, and care.
* Be mindful of all lab safety rules.
* No food or drinks in the room (water in a clear container is permitted away from lab stations)
* All school rules are upheld in the classroom

**ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Electronic devices are valuable learning tools in the proper setting; however, their presence can be destructive when used in inappropriate times of for inappropriate purposes. Therefore, our policy is:

* + Electronics may not be used unless the teacher gives expressed permission.
  + During a test or a quiz, any electronic device (including phones and smart watches) may not be in the direct possession or view of a student for any reason. They must be on silent.
  + During a quiz or test, if an electronic device is in the possession or view of a student, the student and the device may be sent to the student’s grade level principal for further evaluation of academic honesty.

**BEHAVIOR**

## Expectations also include following all OTHS policies as stated in the OTHS Student Handbook. If a student chooses to break a rule, appropriate actions will be taken.

# PreAP Chemistry Course Commitment

Tompkins High School recognizes the value of student participation in advanced academic coursework. Participation in advanced academic courses is a foundation of college readiness. Students who participate are more likely to complete a bachelor’s degree in college and typically have higher college GPAs *(Hargrove, Godin and Dodd, 2007; Dodd and Keng, 2008)*. The intent of this commitment is to maximize each student’s potential for success in PreAP Chemistry.

PreAP Chemistry will challenge students beyond grade-level academic Chemistry and prepare them for success in future advanced-level coursework. Students may require additional encouragement and support to be successful in this course.

**Students who participate in this course *must*:**

* Recognize the long-term benefits of participation, seek assistance if needed, and commit to the course for a *minimum* of one semester.
* Have strong organizational and study skills and/or have support in these areas on a daily basis



* Have interest in this course and time sufficient to complete work and activities required outside of class
* Appropriately handle the rigors of a demanding academic workload
* Hold realistic expectations for results given the challenges of the course

#### OTHS Administration Commitment

Tompkins High School commits to advanced academics by communicating the value of advanced coursework, recruiting students with potential for success, encouraging student commitment, and supporting advanced academic instruction.

#### Student Commitment

The student commits to this course by recognizing the long term benefits of participation and seeking assistance when needed. As a student enrolled the course:

* + I understand that advanced academic courses may fluctuate in difficulty and therefore my scores may fluctuate throughout the year
  + In the event that I find difficulty with the course content, I will conference with my teacher about my progress and attend recommended tutorials.
  + I understand that course changes will be contingent on space availability, extenuating circumstances, the teacher’s appraisal of my potential for success in the course, and the timing of the request.
  + I understand that participation in advanced coursework prepares me well for college, increases my chances of finishing a college degree in four years and earning a higher college GPA.

**Parent Commitment**

The parent commits to advanced academics by supporting student learning; supporting teacher efforts to provide rigorous, quality instruction; and by valuing the learning that occurs in the course. As a parent of a student enrolled in the course:

* I will encourage my child to be prepared for class each day.
* I understand that advanced academic courses may fluctuate in difficulty and therefore my child’s scores may fluctuate throughout the year
* If my child encounters difficulties with the course content, I will encourage my child to conference with the teacher and attend recommended tutorials. • Prior to initiating a petition for my child to exit the course, I will contact the teacher for his/her input.
* I understand that course changes will be contingent on space availability, extenuating circumstances, the teacher’s appraisal of my potential for success in the course, and the timing of the request.

#### Teacher Commitment

The teacher commits to advanced academics by encouraging student participation and success, planning for student learning, providing rigorous, quality instruction, and offering assistance for struggling students. As a teacher of this course:

* I will teach the course following the curriculum developed by Katy ISD.
* I will provide instruction that prepares students for the next level advanced academic course.
* I will provide quality instruction at an advanced level and give ample opportunities for students to be successful.
* I will assign work that is meaningful and relevant to the required learning goals.
* I will provide appropriate tutorial opportunities for students who have difficulty with course content.

STUDENT NAME PRINTED STUDENT SIGNATURE DATE

PARENT SIGNATURE DATE TEACHER SIGNATURE DATE