

Syllabus: Chemistry in the Earth System

2019-2020 School Year

Heritage High School

Mr. Lim

Course Description: This is an introductory chemistry course that focuses on the basic principles of chemistry and earth science. This is a rigorous 1 year course that is intended for students who have completed Biology. This course satisfies a UC/CSU Lab science course requirement. This course utilizes the *California HMM Science Dimensions Chemistry in the Earth System*.

Contact Information and Communication:

Maxwell Lim

Science Department, Room D-111

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Remind: Text "@28bgbg" (A Days) or "@897gefek" (B Days) to (650) 250 - 0576

Email is the best way to contact me. Remind (<https://www.remind.com/>) is a great tool for students *and parents* to stay up to date with due dates and upcoming assignments. The Remind mobile app allows you to instantly message me (Remind does not exchange personal phone numbers). I **highly recommend** that both students and parents use Remind.

Required Materials: Please obtain these materials no later than Tuesday/Wednesday August 12th/13th. If you need help getting any of the materials, please contact me. Students are responsible for bringing these materials everyday.

1. Notebook that is used ONLY for chemistry
2. Scientific Calculator (**phone calculators are not sufficient**)
3. Binder, section of a binder, or a folder for handouts
4. Pencils and pens

Classroom Rules

1. Be on time and prepared to participate and learn.
2. Be respectful! Respect your peers, our supplies, our classroom, our school, your teacher, and yourself!
3. Participate in class discussions and group activities.
4. Follow all school rules.

It is my expectation that everyone follows school rules and presents themselves responsibly throughout the school year. If you violate any of my policies of rules, you may receive any of the following consequences:

- Staying after class
- Lunch or after school detention
- Parent call/email home
- Loss of privileges
- Referral

Standards Based Grading

Grades in my course are based on the topics students need to master, called Learning Targets. (LTs) The goal of standards based grading is to shift the focus from earning points to learning chemistry. All assignments and tests will be graded on a rubric and **homework/classwork will not impact grades.** A few key features of the standards based grading system:

- ✓ The grade is entirely based on correctness of answers.
- ✓ Tests will be frequent but short, only assessing 1-2 standards at a time. Each standard will be assessed twice.
- ✓ Students are able to re-test every single assessment as many times as needed to show mastery. **To re-test, students will need to complete a reassessment form and do a short tutoring session with me.**
- ✓ Formative quizzes will be used to monitor progress—these will be entered in the gradebook but will not have any effect on the overall grade.

- ✓ Homework & classwork will be assigned and checked but not collected or graded. Instead, completion of homework will be reflected in a work habits standard. If homework is consistently incomplete, students may be assigned detention to make up missing work.
- ✓ There will be a midterm and a final in each semester. These are cumulative, multiple choice tests that are used to measure retention of knowledge over time. Students will *not* be able to reassess on midterms or finals.
- ✓ Grade Breakdown is as follows:

- Summative Assessment: 70%
- Labs and Projects: 20%
- Final exam & midterms: 10%
- Formative Quizzes & Work: 0%

- ✓ Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A	90-100%	D	60-69%
B	80-89%	F	Below 59
C	70-79%		

Rubric Grading: The rubric using for grading assignments and tests is based on a 10 point scale, and is as follows:

0 No Evidence	5 Not Yet	7 Approaching	8.5 Proficient	10 Advanced
Left 2 or more questions blank on the assessment	No evidence of proficiency with the learning target but attempted the questions.	Shows beginning proficiency with the learning target, but is inconsistent or makes several errors (>4 errors)	Demonstrates understanding of most or all of the learning target, but misses no more than 1 success criteria or makes 3-4 errors	Demonstrates mastery of learning target; makes no more than 1-2 minor errors

Absences/Attendance: Attendance is critical for success in chemistry. Be present and on time every day.

- A student's absence one or two days prior to a test will not excuse him/her from taking the test. Tests are planned sufficiently in advance so that the student should have time to adequately prepare for them.
- All major tests are announced well in advance. **(If you know that you will miss a test, quiz, or lab because of a school related obligation, it is the student's responsibility to make arrangements with Mr. Lim to take the test prior to test day).**
- If you are attending an extracurricular activity, it is your responsibility to turn in any assignments before you leave school and find out what your homework will be for the next class.
- Classwork and homework can be found on the class webpage. **Even if you are absent, it is STRONGLY RECOMMENDED you complete the homework for that day** – you can either look it up online or come get it from Mr. Lim. Technically, absent work – for excused absences only – is due the following class period after your return.

Make Up Tests: Students have 1 week from the test date to make up an assessment. If you do not make up the test within 1 week, the grade becomes a 0 and you will have to complete the reassessment process to make it up.

Academic Dishonesty: All forms of academic dishonesty; including plagiarism, copying assignments, and cheating on tests are taken extremely seriously. Academic dishonesty will result in a 0 on the assignment for all students involved. This includes tests, quizzes, homework, classwork, labs, and projects. **Many assignments require collaboration or group work, but this is not an excuse for copying.** Additionally, cheating will result in parent contact, the incident will be logged in Aeries, and a referral.

Cell Phones: Cellphones are not allowed during class unless instructed otherwise. Students will start out with 3 extra credit points in the test category. Every time they have a cell phone out without permission, they will lose one of these points and the phone will be taken (they can reclaim it at the end of class). After the first three points, test credit will be deducted (and the phone will still be confiscated). Parents, do not expect your students to answer their phones during class. If there is an emergency, contact them through the front office. If they have an emergency, they can speak to me and I will let them make a call—but they must have permission first.

Need help? Have a question?: For extra help, I am available before and after school. After school is the best time to receive help, I'm typically in my classroom until 4:00 pm. If you plan on coming before school, you must notify me before hand. Do not hesitate to get help!

Syllabus Acknowledgement and Contract

Please detach this page, sign and return it to Mr. Lim. The syllabus should be kept as a reference.

Chemistry is a rigorous laboratory science. None-the-less we believe every student is capable of succeeding. Parent/Student/Teacher communication is vital to student success and is encouraged at anytime and for any reason. Success in this course requires daily homework, review, and preparation. Your signature below serves to acknowledge that you have read and understand the requirements and structure as outlined in the Chemistry Class Syllabus.

Student:

I have read the syllabus and understand the classroom/laboratory expectations and discipline policy. I agree to abide by the expectations of this class and will commit to doing quality work the entire course. I understand I am responsible for my own behavior and actions. **I also understand that cheating is unacceptable and occurs when:**

- a) I fail to do my own work and turn in something I did not personally complete
- b) I use anything other than acceptable materials to complete assignments or a quiz/exam
- c) I provide answers or work to another student

Student Name

Student Signature

Date

Parent or Guardian:

I have discussed the classroom expectations and discipline policy on the previous pages with my son/daughter. I understand how to contact the teacher, what will influence my child's academic performance in this course, and will make every effort to ensure his/her academic success.

Parent/Guardian Name

Guardian Signature

Date