**Mrs. Patrum’s**

**AP CHEMISTRY POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS**

**GOALS:**

The Advanced Placement chemistry course is designed to be the equivalent of the general chemistry course usually taken during the first college year. Students in this course will attain a significant depth of understanding of fundamentals and a competence in dealing with chemical problems.

**TEXT:**

Chemistry, 9th edition, Zumdahl and Zumdahl

Supplements: Various handouts and online resources

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

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**ATTENDANCE:**

Attendance will be of the utmost importance in this course! The course will be fast-paced to cover all of the necessary material. The AP Exam is scheduled for Monday, May 2, 2016 which allows time for approximately only 30 weeks of instruction time.

Information presented in lecture will not be repeated, so it is extremely important not to miss class. Try to schedule any appointments before or after this classIt will be your responsibility to obtain notes of the material missed from a classmate (or the instructor). All PowerPoint lecture notes will be posted on my webpage.

* Any laboratory exercises missed will have to be made up on your time.
* If a test is missed, expect to take a make-up test on the day you return. This test may be different from the original. If you know that you will be absent on the day of a test, I would prefer to make arrangements for you to take the test before the rest of the class if at all possible.
* To be well prepared for class, you should bring your textbook, notebook and calculator every day. As a reminder the textbook is to be covered and protected at all times during the year. Its replacement value is well beyond that of an average high school textbook at approximately $150.00! Welcome to the world of college pricing!

**HOMEWORK:**

* Homework assignments will be given nightly and will be posted on the left side of the board in the front of room 143. Homework will consist of reading the text, independent note taking and practice problems! Lots of practice problems! Although everyone learns at a different pace, plan on spending at least an hour outside of class everyday on your AP Chemistry lessons!
* Homework, by chapters, will be checked and awarded a certain number of points. It will not be collected daily as this is a college class and you will be treated as the mature and independent learners you have proven yourselves to be.
* I will often ask you to put homework problems on the board. You will be expected to at least begin problems on the board, even if you do not think you have the “right” answer! If you are repeatedly unprepared with your work, we may need to reevaluate your enrollment and commitment to this course.

**TESTS/QUIZZES**

Test and quiz problems will be similar to those assigned for homework. Satisfactory completion of the homework assignments will be the best preparation for tests. Later on in the year, AP questions from previous AP exams will be added into homework and tests. Tests will generally follow the format of the AP Exam. There will be a multiple choice section and a free response section where you will show your work for problems or answer questions on short essays.

**GRADING:**

**Grades are not given. They are earned.**!

* Contributions to your grade will be achieved on a total point basis.
* **TESTS:** 2-3 per marking period, generally after 2-3 chapters, expect them to be challenging, this is a college course!
* For problems no credit is given if work is not shown. Partial credit is always given for what is attempted. If a problem has three parts, where the answer in part c depends on the answer to part b which depends on the answer to part a; and the answer to part a is incorrect but is used correctly in parts b and c, full credit is given for parts b and c. Points are deducted only once for the original mistake in part a.
* **QUIZZES:** usually at least one per six-day cycle, often only one problem, occasionally take-home quizzes are given.
* **LABS:** Lab grades will be determined after each experiment based on your formal typed lab write up and the notes that you took during the experiment
* **HOMEWORK:** As previously stated, assignments will be collected and graded at the conclusion of a chapter. Doing and handing in the chapter problems has several advantages for you: it helps your grade and makes you better prepared for tests. It you get "time crunched" and can't get all the assigned problems done; be smart and do at least some from every section!

**GRADE ADJUSTMENT:** Any "curving" is done at the discretion of the instructor and is only done at the end of a marking period. This is done so that marking period grades reflect what would typically be your grade if taking this course in college at this time. Grades in college chemistry courses for the majority of students are in the B and C ranges with a few gifted learners up in the A range. The achievement of a C or B in college chemistry is something to be proud of!!!

**CHEATING/PLAGIARISM:**

Cheating is copying or giving answers to homework, tests, quizzes or lab work, or allowing someone to copy your work. Plagiarism is using ideas, quotes, pictures, charts, graphs, internet or textbook information without giving credit.

1st offense: zero, no make-up, phone home

2nd offense: same, plus loss of additional points

Additional: Administrative action.

**AP EXAM:**

In May you will be expected to take the AP Chemistry Exam, a standardized examination, which is graded by AP Readers on a scale of 1-5. Due to time constraints, there will limited time to review for this exam during the scheduled class periods. After school review will be offered but it is also a good idea to get an AP Chemistry test prep book (they are available from several publishers).I do have a preference as to which text to purchase and I will share that information with you at the start of the second semester.

**CALCULATORS:**

* You need a calculator for this course, and it would be to your advantage to obtain a scientific calculator with exponent and power keys, trig and log functions and some memory.
* A graphing calculator is not necessary for this course. However, if you anticipate later needing a graphing calculator for math, you may want to make that purchase now.
* Once you have your calculator, be sure to read the instruction manual so that you will know how to operate your calculator. This is your responsibility and not knowing how to do an operation on your calculator is not an acceptable reason for not solving a problem!

**ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE:**

* Due to the fast pace of this course, you may find that there are times when you get a bit confused and need a little extra help. Even if that has NEVER happened to you before, it may happen this year! The AP Chemistry course along with the AP Calculus course are often regarded as the two most challenging AP courses available.
* I encourage you to form study groups with others in this class. Study groups of 3 or 4 have been a mainstay on college campuses and can provide academic support and encouragement to its members.
* In addition to your classmates please, come in and ask me questions when they occur. It’s best to get help early on so that you don’t fall behind. I am available after school, and several periods during the school day. Before school is really not an option as I travel a longer distance than most to NT and I never know what my commute will be like!

**GOOD LUCK!**

This will be one of the most challenging courses of your high-school career.

Hopefully, it will also be one of the most useful and rewarding ones as well.

Relax and try to enjoy it!