

Chemistry

2023-2024

1st, 2nd, 5th, & 7th Hours

Instructor: Mrs. Nelson (Room W6)

Email: dnelson@ogr6.org

Phone: 816-690-4152 ext. 1678

Planning and Conference Period: 6th Hour (12:28 – 1:19) daily

Office Hours: 2:40-3:40 daily or by appointment

Welcome to Chemistry! Chemistry is the study of matter including its properties, characteristics, reactions, and changes. This course will emphasize the basic principles of chemistry. This course will cover introductory topics such as: classification of matter, chemical shorthand, structure of atoms and compounds, the mole, chemical reactions, and solids, liquids, and gases. This information will be presented in several different ways, some of which are lectures, labs, worksheets, audiovisuals and group work. Lab activities will stress the scientific method, proper lab behavior, and group work. Individual and group projects will be assigned periodically during the year and may take the form of oral and/or written presentations, posters, or models.

Grading: ***"Grades are ACHIEVED, not RECEIVED."*** Your grade will be determined by your performance on assignments, in-class participation, projects, quizzes, and tests and will be calculated according to the percentages below:

50%	Tests	20%	Classwork
30%	Homework		

Semester grades will be calculated by averaging the two Quarter grades. The school's grading scale will be used and is listed below:

100-95	A	76-73	C
94-90	A-	72-70	C-
89-87	B+	69-67	D+
86-83	B	66-63	D
82-80	B-	62-60	D-
79-77	C+	59-0	F

Attendance: Attendance is taken daily and is crucial to your success. Should you miss a day for any reason, **you** alone are responsible for consulting me about make-up work. I will also NOT remind you to come get your absent work and I will NOT get it to you during class time. Per the Handbook: ***"The student must initiate the make-up work upon immediate return to each class. If the student knows of the assignment or test before his/her absence, the teacher may request that the work be done the day of return."***

Tardies: You will be considered tardy if you are not in my classroom and in your seat when the bell rings. If a teacher or a principal causes you to be tardy, you **must** have a pass to be excused. "When you miss class, you miss out!" Please be on time! Once in class, you will not be permitted to leave to go to the drinking fountain, the restroom, vending machines, etc.

Test Retakes

If a student does not achieve a **70%** or higher on a chapter/unit test he/she will have the opportunity to retake the test. The student will have until the next scheduled chapter/unit test to retest and achieve the 70% benchmark. If a student fails to reach the 70% benchmark by that time, the teacher will take the best retake test score.

Students are expected to schedule their own retake appointments with their teacher based on the teacher's availability for that week. This is NOT the teacher's responsibility. ***I will not nag you to retake your test. It is your choice and your responsibility to take initiative and interest in your own grades.***

Once you achieve the 70% standard, I will average the first and last test score to determine your final grade on the test.

Expectations of Student Behavior: All rules and policies outlined in the school handbook will be observed at all times, along with the following expectations:

- 1. Be READY!** This means having *EVERYTHING* (homework, pencil, paper, book, binder, Chromebook, etc.) you need when you come to class. Be in your seat when the bell rings. Be ready for a GREAT day of Science!! This includes using the restroom—GO BEFORE YOU SIT DOWN! Be awake and focus on what you should be doing and learning during class. If you choose to leave for any reason outside of an emergency, you will receive a tardy. If we are meeting virtually, have everything you think you may need so we can use our time efficiently.
- 2. Be RESPONSIBLE!** Work bell-to-bell and actively work with your group or on your individual activity. Ask for help when needed. Be responsible for your own work. Take care of school property, your property, and most importantly, take care of YOU and ONLY YOU! Please know there are consequences for all decisions and choices you make.
- 3. Be RESPECTFUL!** Use positive and appropriate language. You will only receive one warning about inappropriate language. My expectation is that if I wouldn't hear it in a G-rated, Disney movie from the 1990s, I don't want to hear it in my classroom. If it becomes habit, you will lose the privilege of the one warning. Stay on topic during class and focus on making yourself a better student. NO ONE will use derogatory or negative behavior toward another student. Be courteous to everyone and everything. Represent yourself and OGHS in your words and actions! The Golden Rule can never go too far whether it is a peer, teacher, school administrator, or school materials. I will not take this lightly.

During Virtual Learning Days: You are expected to log on to Google Classroom and complete the assignments/activities/readings/etc. that are given.

Supplies: For this class you will need a writing utensil and a 3-ring binder (1" or 1.5") with dividers. You are expected to bring these items to class daily. A calculator is **strongly recommended**. I only have a couple to lend. You **MUST** use a pencil on tests or you will lose 10%. Appropriate clothing must be worn on laboratory days.

Textbooks: Textbooks will not be assigned to each student. There is a class set in the classroom for use during the school day. If a student wishes to take a book home, they need to check one out from the Media Center in their free time. While I follow the book in general, our units and the chapters may not always line up numerically.

Tests: There will be tests after each chapter/unit. At the end of the semester, you will be given a comprehensive final exam. Project assessments could be used in place of a formal exam. The retake policy only applies to chapter/unit tests. There is no EOC.

Quizzes: Quizzes may or may not be announced and will be given randomly.

Homework: Should you have work outside of class, it must be completed by the beginning of the next class period (unless otherwise specified). **I DO NOT ACCEPT ANY LATE WORK!!** Some assigned work will be graded for accuracy, some for completion points, and some may not be graded at all. Due to the mathematical nature of the class, work **MUST** be shown in order for credit to be given. It will be your choice as to whether you would want to receive the zero or a partial grade for that assignment.

Extra Credit: None. Zilch. Zero. Nada. You are expected to do your best work the first time it is assigned and to study for exams. Bonus points may be found on tests and as incentives throughout the year, but you will not be allowed to do extra credit to help raise a low grade at the end of a quarter or semester (or to help you get "ungrounded").

Teacher's Help: You will be given many opportunities for "points". However, POINTS are NOT your objective! Your goal is to learn the material and show me you can apply those concepts, even if it's not worth "points." Complete all assignments, participate in class, study for quizzes and tests, and you will do well. I want you to have a successful year. Please do not ever be afraid to ask for extra help. I am available if you have concerns, questions, or need some assistance with the course.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as stealing or using someone else's ideas or writing as your own. I will show zero tolerance for this action. If you have questions, see me!!

Emergency Procedures: Emergency procedures are posted on the wall near the door.

Other: I will observe the rules of OGHS as stated in the student handbook. Please come to class dressed appropriately, use appropriate language, and keep cell phones and electronics out of my sight and hearing, etc. Chromebooks should not be out unless instructed.

"The important thing in science is not so much to obtain new facts as to discover new ways of thinking about them."

~Sir William Lawrence Bragg

Laboratory Safety Contract

The purpose of these guidelines is to make the student aware of his/her responsibility for lab safety. Please read the following lab safety guidelines. It is expected that these will ALL be followed during lab activities unless otherwise instructed.

• USE COMMON SENSE & FOLLOW ALL DIRECTIONS EXACTLY!!!

- Wear proper eye protection at all times during lab activities involving chemicals or open flame. Consult with your instructor if you use contact lenses. Know the location of the eye wash equipment.
- Confine or securely tie hair that reaches to shoulders. Remember hair is very flammable!
- **Do Not** eat, drink, or chew gum in the classroom or laboratory. Dangerous chemicals may get in your mouth. Never taste anything in the laboratory unless specifically instructed to do so by your teacher. No chemicals or other lab materials are to be removed from class.
- Do only the experiments assigned and in the manner prescribed.
- Never engage in horseplay or practical jokes in a science classroom or laboratory.
- Avoid inhaling chemical fumes; avoid filling pipettes by using your mouth; consider all chemicals dangerous unless they are known to be otherwise.
- Footwear that completely covers the foot is required during lab work.
- The teacher is to be notified immediately in case of an accident, no matter how trivial it may appear.
- Know the locations of the fire extinguisher, fire blanket, eye wash, safety shower and first aid kit.
- Notify the instructor immediately of any spills on your clothing.
- Do not return chemicals to their original containers or pour down sink unless you are instructed to do so.
- Never point the open end of a test tube being heated at yourself or others.

Dear Parents or Guardians,

Attached is the syllabus for your student's Chemistry class, which is also posted online on my website. Please read and discuss it with your child so that you are aware of my classroom policies and procedures. I have gone over the pertinent information with the students, but would like you to know the class expectations, also.

A safety contract is also included. By signing below, you are acknowledging that you have read all class information/contracts and agree to those expectations.

It is my goal to work with you and your student to ensure a successful year. Please feel free to contact me at any time for grade checks, behavior checks, or other concerns. Email is the easiest and quickest way for me to respond, but you may also contact me by phone. I will get back to you as soon as I can. I know we are all very busy people, so please indicate your preferred method of contact below.

Thank you,

Mrs. Nelson

We have both read and understand the policies and procedures in Mrs. Nelson's class included in the syllabus and the lab safety contract. We are aware and understand the test retake policy and the expectations of OGHS and Mrs. Nelson. We understand that it is the student's responsibility to complete their own work, keep up on their academic progress, and bring the upmost respect every day for their peers, teachers, and all things around them.

Student Name (printed)

Student Name (signature)

Parent/Guardian (printed)

Parent/Guardian (signature)

Parents,

Please indicate your preferred method of contact:

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____