

**Text:**

Wilbrham, etc., *Chemistry*, Prentice Hall, 2007.

**Course Content:**

This course is part of the three-course model for high school science as laid out in the California NGSS framework. More information can be found here: <https://ngss.sdcocoe.net/Chemistry-In-The-Earth-System>. This course integrates earth science concepts through a chemistry lens.

**Course Topic Outline:**

Semester 1

- ◆ Combustion
- ◆ Heat and Energy in the Earth System
- ◆ Atoms, Elements & Molecules

Semester 2

- ◆ Chemical Reactions
- ◆ Chemistry of Climate Change
- ◆ Dynamics of Chemical Reactions and Ocean Acidification

**Teaching Methods:**

Guided inquiry is the primary method used in this course. Group activities and investigations will allow students to gather evidence for making meaning of chemistry concepts. Small group and whole class discussions will be integral to student understanding. Students are expected to participate fully in all classroom activities. Independent study skills will be required as students reinforce concepts from class at home.

**Assessment:**

Students will be formally assessed during and after each unit and at the end of each semester. Students will also have the opportunity to express their understanding on exit slips, class assignments, and lab reports. Every assignment is awarded a certain number of points. The points are split into weighted categories with 65% assessment, 35% classwork and homework. Late assignments may be accepted with a loss of points.

- 89.5% of total points weighted earns an A
- 79.5% - 89.4% a B
- 69.5% - 79.4% a C
- 59.5% - 69.4% a D
- below 59.4% an F

A small portion of the final grade may be based on class participation, quality of work and academic growth.

**Citizenship:**

Students who participate, follow safety rules, come to class on time and do not disrupt class are Satisfactory. In order to be considered Good or Excellent, a student needs to have a positive impact on the class by actively participating, assisting others, volunteering, having stellar attendance and generally going above and beyond. The school-wide effect of tardies and trancies on citizenship is below.

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1 tardy   | Teacher conference with student  |
| 2 tardies | Teacher counsels student and contacts parent, highest is S in citizenship                |
| 3 tardies | N in citizenship and teacher contacts parent, assigns classroom detention                |
| 4 tardies | U in citizenship, referral to counselor who contacts home and requests parent assistance |
| 5 tardies | U in citizenship, parent conference scheduled to discuss possible interventions          |

6 tardies U in citizenship, referral to vice principal for disciplinary action  
12 or more accumulated tardies during the semester will result in a U for the semester.

Each unexcused absence (U on the absence list) will result in the lowering of the student's citizenship one grade per grading period.

After three unexcused absences per grading period, a referral to the counselor will be made

After four unexcused absences per grading period a referral to the V.P. will be made.

One (1) truancy during a six-week period will result in an "N".

More than one truancy from class during a six-week period will result in a "U".

No cell phones are allowed in class. Use will result in confiscation and lowering of citizenship.

Semester citizenship grades are calculated by averaging the three 6-week citizenship grades.

### **Classroom Policies:**

This class requires participation. Students are expected to be in their seats, ready to work when the bell rings. Students who are tardy will miss out on instruction. Attendance is key to success in chemistry. Many of the experiences involve group work, which cannot be replicated. If a student is absent, it is his/her job to check the website and/or request missing assignments and turn in work that was due on the date of absence. Assessments missed due to absence must be made up as soon as possible. If a student develops a pattern of absences on test/quiz days he/she may not be able to earn an A on made-up assessments.

Classroom reflection sheets are collected about every two weeks. Students are required to keep their assignments for at least this length of time in their binder. Late assignments may lose credit. It is important for them to have their colored reflection sheets everyday. Homework will generally only be to finish classwork.

In order to be successful in this course, students are recommended to have the following supplies: 3-ring binder with paper, pencils, pens and a scientific calculator. If a student is unable to obtain these supplies for some reason, he/she should talk to the teacher immediately.

### **Academic Honesty:**

All students are expected to conduct themselves with the highest academic integrity. It is a disservice to everyone when a student cheats. Any student participating in the following will be considered in violation of the academic honesty policy as outlined in the student handbook:

- Cheating on tests or assignments, which includes giving answers to other students as well as taking them.
- Plagiarism – copying of any sort.
- Theft or alteration of classroom materials

Consequences for violating this policy may include a zero on the assignment, a U in citizenship for the six weeks and an F/U in the course for the semester. To avoid any impression of impropriety, students will NOT be allowed to use a graphing calculator or phone on any exam.

### **Communication:**

If I have concerns about a student's progress or behavior, I will first counsel with the student. If after talking with the student, the situation has not resolved itself I will contact parents. If the situation continues I will contact the counselor and perhaps have a conference to try and clear up the issue.

I am always available via e-mail to discuss grades, citizenship or content with parents and students at [mquessenberry@sandi.net](mailto:mquessenberry@sandi.net). This is the best way to communicate with me. I am generally available during lunch for tutoring or talking Tu-Th. I will have before or after-school tutoring as needed. I can also be reached by phone at (858) 475-3040 x149. I will attempt to return messages within 24 hours of receipt. I have assignments listed at <http://mrsq.net> and you can check grades with Power School.