

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CHEMISTRY INFORMATION

Welcome to Advanced Placement Chemistry. I look forward to working with you. The purpose of this letter is to give you a quick overview of the course and to describe the summer assignment.

OVERVIEW

You will be taking the equivalent of 8 college credits in general chemistry. The text we will be using is:

Brown, Lemay et al., Chemistry: The Central Science 14th Edition. 2018 ISBN: 9780134292816

You will be issued an online text in the Fall. However, in the past, students have opted to acquire their own used copy of the text for use in the summer and for future use in college. Any previous edition of the text will serve this purpose. The 9th Edition or newer would be best. With shipping, used copies of this text can be purchased online for under \$10.

You are expected to take the AP Chemistry Exam in May. I hope that every student will score at least a 3 on the exam, but many of you should aim for and work toward scores of 4 and 5. This will require a considerable, sustained effort. I am here to facilitate your learning. You may be considering engineering, medicine, research in science, or some other field. Whatever your individual reason for taking the course, I will assume that you have high interest in science and that you are ambitious and self-motivated. The amount of work you encounter is rigorous in volume and complexity. You will need to be thoughtful and engaged, prepared for class on a daily basis. The only way to become competent is to practice. To that end, you will probably do about 400-500 problems for homework over the 27 weeks of the course. You should plan to spend at least 45-60 minutes on course activities outside of class each day. You will be expected to complete laboratory reports and to maintain a class notebook/homework book. We will cover 20 chapters in 27 weeks. The effort you expend will be considerable, but the rewards will be GREAT!

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

To help review some of the basics, you will need to complete the summer assignment. Complete it as soon as possible, before you return in the Fall. Notes about the summer packet:

- I recommend working in groups. It helps significantly, and scheduled times increase accountability.
- This assignment is similar to summer reading in English. It is a significant activity that will likely take several hours to complete. It is not a good idea to wait until shortly before the first day. Avoid frustration- start early.
- The activity is not designed to provide immediate feedback about things that were memorized in the past. Instead, it should be treated as practice, exercises that will help to refine old skills that are likely rusty. In certain cases, you may need to learn some simple concepts for the first time, on your own.

- This assignment will likely be a challenge for everyone, even if you are good at chemistry. Please do not give up or request to be removed from the course.
- You will need to rely on outside resources. A used, older edition of the AP text is best. Other chemistry-related resources, including videos, can be found online or at the public library.
- Simple, short quizzes may be administered early in the marking period to assess your understanding. These quizzes could start as early as the first day of class. If you have any questions, please contact me using the email address below. I look forward to working with you in the next school year. Have an enjoyable and relaxing summer.

Sincerely,

Mr. Wolff
AP Chemistry Instructor
rwolff@cheltenham.org