

### **Description:**

Chemistry is the study of the material that makes up the physical world, from the most basic building blocks to the largest objects in the universe. It seeks to understand the behavior of matter and to use this understanding to achieve practical results.

### **What will we learn?**

Can you turn a penny into gold? How does a smell go from being a liquid in a bottle to a 'smell' in your brain? How do you tell if a substance is toxic? What is the chemistry behind weather patterns? How do you design and carry-out a scientific experiment?

### **Required Materials:**

Each class you should bring:

1. Your interactive notebook
2. A pen or pencil
3. A calculator
4. \*Your LBC textbook (Living By Chemistry by Angelica M. Stacy)

### **Grading:**

- 35% Tests: Tests are 2-3 times per Unit/Quarter.
- 25% Quizzes: Quizzes are open notebook and come most every week. A 'practice quiz' similar to the actual quiz will usually be given in Wednesday's extra help session.
- 20% Interactive Notebook and Portfolio Projects: Interactive notebooks will be periodically collected and graded, sometimes checked by a special 'notebook quiz'. Portfolio Project details to follow in a few weeks.
- 10% Homework: HW may be collected and graded; graded at your seat, or not checked at all. Sometimes you may even get a pop quiz based on the homework!
- 10% Classwork and Effort: Classwork, like homework, is sometimes collected and graded, sometimes graded at your seat, and sometimes not checked at all. However, all your work in class counts towards your effort grade which is scored every week—the highest score you can get is a 9/10 unless you do something for bonus points, so be bold! Putting in a

good effort means volunteering answers, coming to class prepared, doing lab activities safely, working well in groups and participating in class discussions.

**\*Grades will be updated daily whenever possible and available online via Snapgrades\***

Note: There are no D's in this class. Any quarterly grade below 70% is considered an F 😊

### **Student Support:**

- ☐ Extra help session (required if your grade is lower than a C) is after school Wednesdays from 2:00 to 3:00.
- ☐ Quick question? Most student questions can be resolved in only 5-10 minutes, stop by any day right after school and ask!

### **All Students will succeed!:**

- Students with a grade lower than a C- are **required** to attend the Wednesday extra-help sessions from 2:00-3:00, consisting of:
  - a) Practice quiz
  - b) Correcting and dissecting how to answer practice quiz questions
  - c) Tutoring, grade updates, time to work on missing work, quizzes & tests

### **Course Website:**

The USA Chemistry website (<https://sites.google.com/a/urbansci.net/usachemistry/>) features full copies of the Powerpoint, many handouts and lists the day's homework. You can also find links to your grade as well as, photos, information on special programs and links to interesting science websites. You can even print the day's notes if you are absent!

### **Making-up work when absent:**

- Students are responsible for making up all work missed due to absences by getting handouts from the 'past handouts' filing cabinet and notes from classmates, the website, or the class binder (stays in room 301).
- Students who 'cut' a quiz or test will receive a zero for that assessment.
- Since labs are difficult to repeat, you will need to get data & notes from a classmate.
- If possible, get notes and homework from the course website *before you return* so that you do not fall behind.

**Lab Safety:** Because safety in the lab can literally be a matter of life and death, there is a 'zero tolerance' policy for fooling around in the lab. A detailed lab safety

training will take place in early September and students will be expected to follow all safety rules and instructions. Students that do not follow these strict guidelines will be removed from the lab area.

*Make Lots of Mistakes!*