

## **CHEMISTRY I HONORS COURSE HANDBOOK**

**Mrs. Tait**

- Room 11B ▪
- Conference: Period 8▪

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### **OVERVIEW**

This is an introductory chemistry course designed to give students a well-rounded background in chemistry principles. Topics will range from basic ones such as atoms, the periodic table, and chemical bonds to more advanced topics such as stoichiometry, gas laws, and acid/base chemistry. It is a fundamentally cumulative course where information learned in the first units will directly or indirectly affect achievement in later units. Thus, it is imperative you do not fall behind. Get help early if you need it!

### **TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES**

» [plantlectures.com/taitl](http://plantlectures.com/taitl) «

This website is my virtual classroom. It contains almost all information related to the course. There is a calendar with future dates (tests, quizzes, projects, etc.). It also contains daily posts that include the assignment calendar (agenda for the day) as well as a video of the lecture from that day. You can access links to all worksheets and handouts given throughout the year. It will also contain detailed information about projects. Please visit this website often as it is updated daily and full of information that will prove helpful. You can also access it from Edline or Plant's official website; look for my name in the science faculty section.

» [www.edline.net](http://www.edline.net) «

This website will allow parents AND students to access current grades for my class at any time. You will be given an activation code which will allow you to set-up a user name and password. Grades will only be posted on this site and are updated usually once a week, if not more frequently on some occasions.

» [http://glencoe.com/sites/common\\_assets/science/ose/](http://glencoe.com/sites/common_assets/science/ose/) «

Username: FLCMC06

Password: 2xhp3Wgk (case sensitive)

This is the website created by the textbook publisher, Glencoe. It contains an online student edition (no more taking home heavy books!), study tools, section quizzes, and interactive tutors. Please take time to explore this site.

\*Failure to complete an assignment because the online textbook could not be accessed is not an acceptable excuse for incomplete work (see below for back-up solution).

» StudentWorks CD-ROM «

This CD-ROM contains the student edition as well as digital versions of some worksheets. In the past, there have been some issues beyond my control with the online textbook, in which case the CD-ROM is more reliable. It is available by request.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Cheating, copying, or plagiarizing of any kind will not be tolerated in this class. Any student caught engaging in such activity will receive a zero for the assignment, be referred to student affairs for disciplinary action and parent contact will be made. I will be upfront now in relaying my dedication to thwarting cheating, so please do not put yourself in a position where you might give the appearance of being unethical.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_ #: **R2**

A student found with a cell phone during a test or quiz will be assumed to be engaging in academic dishonesty and appropriate action will be taken.

Under NO circumstances should your notebook or any assignment within your notebook be in the possession of another student, as it will be assumed that cheating is occurring and appropriate action taken. All missed notes should be obtained via my website, NOT another student.

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

As students and human beings, you need to learn to be responsible for yourself and your actions. I expect this of you. Therefore, it is YOUR responsibility to come to class prepared each day, YOUR responsibility to pay attention in class each day, YOUR responsibility to make-up missed work when absent, and YOUR responsibility to make sure you complete all assignments to the best of your ability, just to name a few. I HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS! ☺

Expectations:

- Be Prompt
- Be Prepared
- Be Polite
- Be Productive
- Be Positive

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

Act appropriately: **Do the right thing at the right time!**

1. Show respect for others, property, and the classroom
2. No talking unless given permission
3. No disrupting others from learning
4. Raise your hand for permission to speak or to leave your seat
5. No eating, drinking, or personal grooming.

Inappropriate behavior will be documented. Further misbehavior can result in detention assigned, communication with parent, parent conference, and/or referral.

### **CELL PHONE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY**

According to policies set forth in the School District of Hillsborough County's Student Handbook, any electronic device **in sight** including but not limited to headphones, iPods, and CD players will be confiscated immediately.

While possession of a cell phone in itself is not in violation of these policies, the cell phone is to remain turned completely off while on school grounds. Thus, any handling of a cell phone including, but not limited to, checking the time, taking pictures, playing games, text messaging, and making phone calls will result in the confiscation of the phone. My best advice is to leave cell phones in purses, backpacks, or pockets.

Students will only be asked once to hand over the item in question. Refusal to do so will result in calling an administrator. There will be **NO** discussion. You will have one chance to give up the item. Confiscated items will be secured in the student affairs office. A parent will be required to retrieve the item. No exceptions.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_ #: **R2**

## **PHILOSOPHY**

Your grade is based on two things—ability to learn material and “intangibles.” Not only are you learning content material, but also life skills to help you be successful in life. While my priority is to teach you chemistry, expect to be graded not only on your acquisition of this knowledge but also “intangibles.” These include, but are not limited to, being prepared in class with all materials, demonstrating appropriate behavior, maintaining organizational skills, and following instructions.

## **GRADING**

Nine weeks grades will be calculated using points earned on test, quizzes, lab performance & reports, and turning in a notebook every unit (see Notebook section for notebook grading information). Assignments/assessments may be worth varying amounts of points, but will be weighted together by category as indicated below. The county grading scale will then be applied. I do NOT round up!

Test.....45%

Quiz/Lab.....25%

Notebook.....25%

Miscellaneous...5%

I **DO NOT** allow “extra credit” assignments at the end of the nine weeks to improve grade averages. This undermines the entire grading process. I want you to show consistent effort on the required curriculum. However, I will offer bonus points on rare occasions. Any extra credit offered throughout the year is to be taken advantage of at the time as it will not be offered again later.

Projects will count as a test grade and are the only assignments that will be accepted (and expected to be) typed as well as submitted to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). All other assignments must be completed by hand.

***LABS AND NOTEBOOKS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED LATE! EVER!!***

## **NOTEBOOK**

Notebooks are required in class EVERY DAY! No exception.

There are two types of assignments in your notebook: resource papers and everything else. Both types of papers will be numbered, but the resource sheets will be preceded by the letter R. The first divider in your notebook will be labeled Resources. It will contain all resource papers given throughout the year (see the numbering on this paper as an example of a resource paper). You will be keeping an assignment calendar with all the assignments and activities for each day. It will always be R1 and located directly behind your Resources divider. File all resource papers in number order (R1, R2, R3, etc.).

The rest of the dividers will represent each unit of study and labeled accordingly (see syllabus, R3, for a list of units). All papers for the unit will be assigned a number (including dividers) and will be filed in numerical order. It is imperative that you write the assignment number on a paper or worksheet as soon as you get it to help ensure proper organization.

Notebooks will be collected and graded each unit. The notebook grade will be based on the neatness, completeness, and organization of the notebook. It is expected that all numbered assignments be complete and correct (worksheets will be reviewed in class for corrections). Thus it is imperative that you make corrections to any work we review in class.

## **ABSENCES**

Chemistry is a course where attendance is essential. Excessive absences, including school business, can greatly impede your ability to perform well. Unfortunately, the curriculum and textbook don't always coincide, which can make self-teaching more difficult. Also, some valuable classroom experiences cannot be made-up. Please make every attempt to be in class every day to maximize your chances for success.

When you miss a class, check the website prior to returning to school. It is updated usually by 4 PM with the current day's information and video. Notes and worksheets will be available here. I expect that you are up-to-date with the class when you return.

▪ **MAKE-UP WORK:** In general, work should be made-up within three school days. However, notebooks are collected on tests days only. Thus, you are expected to have your notebook in order on that day. If absences prevent your notebook from being ready, then it is assumed that you are not ready for the test and this information should be communicated to me prior to test day. I expect that if you are absent the day before the test that your notebook, and thus you, will still be ready as no new information is presented the day before a test. Extensions for tests and notebooks are rare and will be handled on a case-by-case basis. **If you are absent on a test day, notebooks are due the day you return to school at the beginning of the period, no exceptions.**

If you are absent the day an assignment is due, it is due the day your return to class at the beginning of the period.

▪ **MAKE-UP TEST:** If you miss a test for any reason (absence, school business, others) you must make arrangements to make-up the test **AFTER** school within three days of the absence. If you do not make up the test within three days, you will receive a zero for that test. A calendar located on my desk will indicate any days that I will not be available after school. It is your responsibility to show up after school by 3:10 PM on an available day for the make-up. However, your notebook will **ALWAYS** be collected the day you return to school and returned **ASAP** to allow for studying.

**\*\*You will NOT receive credit for the test if you have an unexcused absence for that day (2% will not be deducted for that day, but rather receive a zero on the test).**

▪ **QUIZZES:** Missed quizzes may be made up at the **BEGINNING** of 1<sup>st</sup> lunch or **AFTER** school. You only have three days to make up quizzes. You must arrive by the time the tardy bell rings for lunch or by 3:10 PM after school.

**\*\*You will NOT receive credit for the quiz if you have an unexcused absence or tardy for that day (2% will not be deducted for that day, but rather receive a zero on the quiz).**

▪ **MULTIPLE ABSENCES:** If you are absent for three consecutive days or more, please see me to make special arrangements for making up work, quizzes, and/or tests. **COMMUNICATION IS KEY!**

▪ **SCHOOL BUSINESS/ISS/ATOSS:** These are not considered an official school absence. You, the student, are aware of these absences in advance of the missed class(es) and I require that you obtain all of your make-up work prior to the missed class via my website. Remember that my website has all the information you need to stay on track with the class. Unless you have spoken with me ahead of time, special considerations will not be given for make-ups due to these types of absences (ex: if you miss the unit review for a test due to one of these reasons, you will not have the option to make up the test and will be required to take it in class—and your notebook will be checked). Remember that teachers should be notified of school business absences no less than three days prior to the absence.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_ #: **R2**

▪ **UNEXCUSED ABSENCES:** Unexcused absences will result in the loss of TWO percentage points from your final nine-week grade (except on test & quiz days—see above). You are still responsible to make up any work missed. Unexcused absences will earn you a zero on any lab, quiz, or test from that day instead of the 2% deduction.

**\*\*Missing the majority of (or entire) class period and presenting me with a pass from anyone besides administrators is NOT acceptable. It will be considered an unexcused absence and an attendance referral sent to the SAO. No teacher has the right to keep you out of my class without prior permission.**

### **ACCOMODATIONS**

Any students receiving accommodations should make me aware of them as soon as possible. For students with documented accommodations for extended time on tests, I ask that you make arrangements **PRIOR** to the test date. These could include taking the test after school, having a note signed by both your next period teacher and parent allowing you to be late to their class, or taking the test in the guidance office or with another appropriate proctor. Please communicate!

### **NOTE TO STUDENTS**

If you have a personal situation or problem that you need to discuss with me, class time is not always the place for those conversations. During the class period, I am responsible to 30 students simultaneously. If I spent one minute speaking with every single student, over half the class period would be over. Thus, if I appear insensitive or unsympathetic to your individual situation, please wait until another time. Wait until after class, write me a note, see me during lunch, or schedule a time to speak with me. I will be able to give your situation more attention under those circumstances.

Also, if you are having difficulties understanding the material, getting the work in on time, feeling overwhelmed, or just need help in general, I am willing to stay after school if you need some tutoring. Check the calendar on my desk to determine a good time to talk or get extra help after school.

### **SUPPLIES**

#### **REQUIRED**

- 1 inch binder
- 10-Pack of Dividers (or two 5-packs)
- Loose-leaf college-rule paper
- #2 Pencils
- Blue and/or black pens
- FOUR different colored highlighters
- USB Flash Drive (1 GB minimum)
- Book cover

#### **RECOMMENDED**

- Scientific Calculator  
(Texas Instrument TI-30X IIS)
- Hole-punch reinforcement labels

#### **CLASSROOM WISHLIST (donations would be greatly appreciated)**

- Paper Towels
- Box of Tissues
- Hand Sanitizer
- Band-Aids
- Hand Soap

### **TEXTBOOK**

Glencoe, *Chemistry Matter and Change*—replacement cost: \$65.97

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ #: **R2**

**CHEMISTRY COURSE HANDBOOK SIGNATURE PAGE**

Tait—Chemistry

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN SIGNATURES BY: **THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2010**

My signature indicates that I have read and understand the course handbook and agree to follow the procedures and the code of conduct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

My signature indicates that I have read the material and discussed it with my child.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature