

**Chemistry Syllabus**  
2011-2012 School Year  
Miss Gurganus

**Course Description/Overview:**

Chemistry at [Lincoln High School](#) uses a combination of traditional and modern approaches with the focus on preparing students for college-level material. Chemical theories are emphasized, but students also get extensive laboratory experience.

Prerequisites: credit in Algebra I and Physical Science A

Strongly Suggested: Grade of C or better in both Algebra I and Physical Science A

**Class Binder/Folder and Notes:**

Each student must bring a binder or folder to class each day to organize papers for this class.

The class binder/folder must be brought to class by **Tuesday, September 13, 2011**. It will be collected on that day and evaluated for 3 points.

The class binder/folder should be labeled on the front (in any school-appropriate way the student chooses) with the **student's full name** (first and last), class name (**Chemistry**), **class hour**, and teacher's name (**Miss Gurganus**).

What should be kept in the binder/folder?

1. a spiral notebook for chemistry notes (provided by Miss Gurganus OR by the student) which will contain dated notes and written work for each class day (even for days when the student is absent)
2. this class syllabus
3. other handouts, homework, and worksheets
4. [Student Safety Contract](#)
5. the illustrated lab equipment handout
6. [How to Write a Chemistry Lab Report handout](#)
7. other lab handouts
8. the [periodic table](#), ion charts, and other charts

Recommended tab labels (if using dividers) include **Charts & Rules, Homework/Classwork, Study Guides, and Labs & Projects**.

If a student chooses not to provide a binder or folder, a binder or folder will be provided for him/her that will be returned to the school at the end of the semester/school year.

**\*\*Keep your binder/folder organized every day!\*\***

**Course Content:**

Topics studied in chemistry include measurement, unit conversion, classification of matter, properties of matter, energy, specific heat capacity, the history of the atom, isotopes, the structure of the atom (Bohr model, quantum mechanics), electromagnetic radiation, quantum numbers, electron configuration, valence electrons, the periodic table, periodic trends, ions, compound nomenclature, introductory organic chemistry (nomenclature, structures), stoichiometry, the mole, chemical reactions/equations, acid-base chemistry, basic chemical bonding, intermolecular forces, and gases.

Textbook: [Chemistry: Matter and Change](#) (Glencoe/McGraw-Hill, 2008, \$80.00)

Chemistry classes at Lincoln High School are designed to cover much of the State of Michigan's required chemistry course content while still incorporating a large amount of student hands-on laboratory work.

Students participate in laboratory activities approximately once every two weeks.

Each semester ends with a laboratory project.

### **Guidelines for Success:**

Successful students in chemistry . . .

- have a positive attitude about chemistry and math
- believe they can be successful in chemistry if they put in enough effort
- realize mistakes are part of the learning process
- respect the hazards of chemicals and take safety procedures very seriously
- set aside 30-60 minutes each night for chemistry homework or to study chemistry
- come to class prepared each day, bringing a chemistry binder/folder, chemistry notebook, calculator, and writing utensil
- use a binder/folder and agenda planner to stay organized
- have the necessary resources at home to do chemistry assignments (textbook, blue or black ink pens, a dictionary [print or on-line], paper, and a scientific calculator)
- are willing to work hard and know that chemistry comes easily to very few people
- ask for help, come in for help, and borrow resources as needed

### **Extra Help and Absence Assignment Make-up Times:**

Miss Gurganus is available **before school (6:30 - 7:25 am) and after school (2:50 - 4:00 pm) on Mondays and Thursdays**. Students may come in at those times for extra help or to complete missed work.

### **Classroom Rules:**

Each student is to . . .

#### **BE SAFE:**

- follow all [safety guidelines](#) and [procedures](#).
- follow all Lincoln High School rules.

#### **BE RESPONSIBLE:**

- arrive at class each day and on time. When the bell rings, each student should be in his/her seat, ready to learn.
- come to class prepared. Pencil/pen, calculator, agenda planner, class spiral notebook, and class binder/folder should be brought to class every day. Pencils and pens may be borrowed for collateral.
- conduct himself/herself responsibly, courteously, and considerately at all times.

#### **BE RESPECTFUL:**

- be attentive. When the teacher is talking, students should be listening.
- leave distractions outside the classroom. Coats, hats, cosmetics, food, beverages, grooming supplies, phones, personal electronics, and music do not belong in class. Leave them in lockers, in bags, or at home.

**Activities:**

Students in chemistry listen to lectures, take notes, try example problems, write lab reports, do laboratory exercises/experiments, do classroom activities, discuss ideas with other students, take quizzes, take tests, do class work/homework, use netbooks, use calculators, use resource books to research information, and read from their textbooks.

**Grades:**

Grades will be determined by a combination of homework, class work, binder/folder/notes checks, computer work/activities, laboratory work, tests, and quizzes. Each assignment is worth a certain number of points.

Points come from:

- **homework**. Most assignments are due the next day, are worth 2 points each, and are NOT accepted late. Expect at least 30 minutes of chemistry homework every night!
- **class work**. Occasionally there will be in-class assignments worth points.
- **the class binder/folder/notes**. The class binder/folder and notes will be checked weekly. The class binder/folder and notes should be brought to class every day!
- **quizzes**. These are the main source of points. There will be a quiz every week, mostly on Tuesdays. Quizzes are usually worth between 5 and 25 points.
- **laboratory work**. Formal labs occur every one to two weeks. Shorter laboratory exercises occur occasionally. Labs usually range in value from 2 to 60 points.

Students are **not** allowed to work with any chemicals until they have signed the safety contract (along with a parent/guardian), passed the safety quiz with a minimum of 80%, and completed the required pre-lab. **Labs missed due to the student not meeting these requirements, arriving unprepared, or arriving more than 10 minutes late may not be made up.**

Grades for each quarter are calculated according to the following categories:

Tests and quizzes.....	45%
Labs.....	35%
Class work and Binder.....	10%
Homework.....	10%

\*Please note that if the school or district implements a different grading policy by changing the categories or percents, that new grading policy will be used in place of this one.\*

**Grades will then be assigned according to the scale below:**

100% - 93%	A	76% - 73%	C
92% - 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+	<b>Below 60%</b>	<b>E</b>

\*Please note that if the school or district implements a different grading scale, that new scale will be used in place of this one.\*

For the semester grade, the percentages of the first and second quarters will be averaged with the semester exam in the following way:

First quarter grade. . . . .	40%
Second quarter grade. . . . .	40%
Semester exam. . . . .	<u>20%</u>
Semester grade. . . . .	100%

Twenty percent (20%) of each semester exam grade will be a laboratory project.

In order to receive credit (a passing grade) for a semester, two of the three course components (first quarter, second quarter, and semester exam) must be passed with at least sixty percent.

## **Classroom Procedures**

### **Entering the Classroom:**

Students are expected to enter the classroom and go directly to their seats. Students should be seated before the bell rings.

### **Tardy to Class:**

A student is tardy if he/she is not in the classroom when the bell rings. See the student handbook for penalties for frequent tardiness.

### **Paper/Pencils:**

For most assignments, tests, quizzes, and homework, any writing utensil may be used (pencil, pen, marker, etc.). For lab reports, students must use a (dark) blue or black ink pen. Each student is provided with one spiral notebook to use for chemistry notes and assignments and one composition book to use for lab reports.

If a student arrives to class without a writing utensil, he/she should either give Miss Gurganus collateral to trade for one OR check the free cup on the front counter. Sheets of lined paper are also provided on the front counter for students who do not bring their own.

### **How to Find Out What the Daily Assignments Are:**

Each night's assignment is written on the board each day. A monthly calendar of assignments is kept in the front of the classroom. Class assignments are also listed on Miss Gurganus's web site:

<http://web.lincoln.k12.mi.us/buildings/hs/gurganus> (or [missgurganus.com](http://missgurganus.com))

Each day's homework assignment is also posted on Twitter ([@gurganuschemlhs](https://twitter.com/gurganuschemlhs)). It is the student's responsibility to keep track of what he/she has missed and what he/she needs to make up.

Agenda planners should be used to keep track of homework and assignment due dates.

### **Turning In Assignments:**

Homework is to be turned in to the In Box on the front counter either before class begins or when Miss Gurganus asks for it.

### **Returning Assignments to Students:**

Assignments are returned to students as they are graded. They are either handed to students directly or placed on their desks.

### **Finding Out Grade Status:**

Students and parents may check [PowerSchool](#) for the most updated grade status. For a grade status update during class, students should ask to see grades near the end of class each Friday.

### **Student Responsibilities After an Absence:**

It is the student's responsibility to keep track of which day(s) he/she has missed. **Do not ask me for a list of days absent. Use your agenda planner to record these or check your attendance in [PowerSchool](#)!**

After a student has looked at the assignment calendar and/or website, a student should ask the teacher on the day he/she returns from an absence for any assignment paperwork missed.

Excused absences:

Assignments may be made up for full credit ONLY IF THE **OFFICE** EXCUSES THE ABSENCE(S) IN [POWERSCHOOL](#). In general, for every day missed and excused, the assignment's due date is extended one day. Missed class notes should be obtained from fellow classmates; notes are not available from Miss Gurganus.

Unexcused absences:

**If an absence is unexcused by the office, the work may not be made up for credit.** A student with an unexcused absence receives a zero for all work that occurred that day, was due that day, and was assigned that day.

Missed tests, quizzes, and group/lab work:

If a student misses a lab, test, quiz, or group work, it must be made up before or after school. Class time will **not** be used to make up missed assignments. Students have one week from the date of the lab, test, quiz, or group work to make up the assignment.

### **Late, Missing, or Incomplete Assignments:**

**Assignments are not accepted late and are due at the beginning of the class hour on the date they are due.** Students have one week from the date of a missed test, quiz, or lab to complete the assignment. **Binder/folder/notes checks may not be completed late; if you don't have them at a check, you receive a zero.**

In this class, it is better to turn in an incomplete assignment than no assignment, as work is not accepted late.

### **Communication Procedures With Parents/Guardians:**

A weekly e-mail is sent out to parents who request it each Monday evening.

The best way to reach me is by [e-mail](#). The best times to reach me by phone are before 7:00 am and after 4:00 pm.

## TEACHER CONTACT INFORMATION:

Phone number: (734) 484-7000 extension 7655 [I have 24-hour voice mail]  
E-mail address: [gurganus@lincolnk12.org](mailto:gurganus@lincolnk12.org) [best way to contact me!]  
Web site URL: <http://web.lincoln.k12.mi.us/buildings/hs/gurganus>  
(or [missgurganus.com](http://missgurganus.com)) [website updated daily]  
Twitter: [@gurganuschemlhs](https://twitter.com/gurganuschemlhs) [homework updated daily]  
Mailing address: Lincoln High School, 7425 Willis Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

### Ending Class:

When the bell rings and students are seated, the teacher dismisses the class. If all students are not seated, the class waits for all students to be seated, and then the class is dismissed.

On lab days, ten minutes will be given for clean-up, signatures, and washing hands. Passes will not be written for students who take longer than ten minutes to clean up.

### Consequences for Classroom Rule Violations:

Failure to follow one of the above policies or procedures will usually result in a warning. If the infraction is repeated or is very serious, one or more of the following can be expected:

- change of seat assignment
- phone call home
- time spent in the hall
- referral to the office

**\*\*Violating a lab safety rule may result in permanent removal from the course\*\***

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### First Night's Homework: **Introduce Yourself!**

- Write a letter (or send an [e-mail](#)) at least 10 sentences long to introduce yourself to me.
- Please use complete sentences
- Here are some ideas to get you started:
  - what you are looking forward to learning/doing in chemistry this year
  - what you are dreading about chemistry this year
  - why you are taking chemistry (be honest!)
  - why you like (or dislike) science
  - what after-school activities you are involved in (sports, clubs, work, church, etc.)
  - what you plan to do after graduation (college/job/marry/travel/etc.)
  - anything else that describes you (your favorite things/sports/hobbies, things/ideas/people important to you, what you think of Lincoln, what you did this summer, places you would like to travel, etc.)
- Worth 2 points if completed and turned in (or received by [e-mail](#)) at the beginning of class tomorrow (Wednesday, September 7, 2011)