

Chemistry Syllabus
2009-2010 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 (“Matter”)
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 15, 2009**. 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 (these do **NOT** belong in the lab book!)
8. the periodic table, ion charts, and other charts

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, dimensional analysis, 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, an introduction to organic chemistry (nomenclature, structures, functional groups), stoichiometry, the mole, chemical reactions/equations, acid-base chemistry, chemical bonding, intermolecular forces, and gases.

Textbook: *Merrill Chemistry* (Glencoe/McGraw-Hill, 1995)

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 chemistry 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], 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 Absent 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:

- **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 notebook, and class binder/folder should be brought to class every day. Pencils and pens may be borrowed for collateral.
- **be attentive**. When the teacher is talking, students should be listening.
- **conduct himself/herself responsibly, courteously, and considerately at all times**.
- **leave distractions outside the classroom**. Coats, hats, cosmetics, food, beverages, grooming supplies, phones, and music do not belong in class. Leave them in lockers, in bags, or at home.
- **follow all safety guidelines and procedures**.
- **follow all Lincoln High School rules**.

Activities:

Students in chemistry listen to lectures, try example problems, write lab reports, do laboratory exercises/experiments, discuss ideas with other students, take quizzes, take tests, do homework, 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, laboratory work, tests, and quizzes. Each assignment is worth a certain number of points (usually from 2 to 100).

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!
- **tests and quizzes.** These are the main source of points. There will be a quiz every week, mostly on Tuesdays. Tests may also be given occasionally. Tests and quizzes are usually worth between 5 and 50 points.
- **laboratory work.** Formal labs occur every one to two weeks. Shorter laboratory exercises occur occasionally. Labs 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.**

At the end of each quarter, points are totaled and divided by total points possible. **Grades will 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+	Below 60%	E

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 tardies.

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.

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)

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 days 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 assignments missed.

Excused absences:

Assignments may be made up for full credit **ONLY IF THE OFFICE EXCUSES THE ABSENCE(S)**. 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.

The best times to reach me by phone are before 7:00 am, from 9:00 am to 9:30 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@gw.lincoln.k12.mi.us [best way to contact me!]
Web site URL: <http://web.lincoln.k12.mi.us/buildings/hs/gurganus>
(or missgurganus.com) [website 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.

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
- time spent in the hall
- phone call home
- referral to the office

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

First Night's Homework: Introduce Yourself!

- Write a letter (or send an e-mail) at least 10 sentences long to introduce yourself to me.
- Use complete sentences
- Here are some ideas to get you started:
 - what you are looking forward to learning/doing in 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, 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 9, 2009)