

Chemistry Syllabus
2017-2018 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.

Prerequisite: credit in Algebra I

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 12, 2017**. 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?

- spiral notebook
- this class syllabus
- handouts, homework, and worksheets
- Student Safety Contract
- the illustrated lab equipment handout
- other lab handouts
- the periodic table 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 states of matter, gas laws, measurement, classification of matter, properties of matter, the periodic table, periodic trends, ions, compound nomenclature, chemical reactions/equations, stoichiometry, the mole, basic chemical bonding, energy, specific heat capacity, and lab skills.

Textbooks: *Chemistry: Matter and Change* (Glencoe/McGraw-Hill, 2008, \$80.00)
Merrill Chemistry (Glencoe/McGraw-Hill, 1995, \$65.00)

Students participate in laboratory activities approximately once every two weeks.

Extra Help and Absence Assignment Make-up Times:

Miss Gurganus is available before school (7:00 - 7:25 am) most mornings and after school (2:50 - 4:00 pm) on most Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Students may come in at those times for extra help or to complete missed work. **Check with the teacher before planning to come early or stay after.** Other times may be available by appointment.

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, spiral notebook, and binder/folder should be brought to class every day.
- 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. Cell phones and personal electronics may **not** be charged during class.

Activities:

Students in chemistry read about chemistry, write about 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, watch demonstrations, do class work/homework, use calculators, use resource websites and books to research information, and read from their textbooks.

Grades:

Grades will be determined by a combination of homework, class work, binder/folder/notebook checks, laboratory work, tests, and quizzes.

Points come from:

- **homework**. Most assignments are due the next day 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/notebook**. The class binder/folder and notebook will be checked during tests. The class binder/folder and notebook should be brought to class every day!
- **quizzes**. Expect a quiz every week.
- **tests**. Students will take pre-tests and post-tests for each unit/section.
- **laboratory work**. Labs occur every one to two weeks.

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.**

Students may drop their lowest-scoring lab each quarter. That means if a student is unable to make up one lab from an excused absence, the score from that lab could be dropped and not affect his/her grade. Each student is responsible for knowing all information from each lab for test/quiz purposes, though, regardless of whether the lab was completed.

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

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Tests and quizzes | 50% |
| Labs | 25% |
| Class work and Binder | 15% |
| Homework | 10% |

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+ | Below 60% | E |

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% |

The semester exam grade may include lab work (or a project) as well as a paper-and-pencil test.

Classroom Procedures

Tardy to Class:

A student is tardy if he/she is not in the classroom when the bell rings. Tardy students should quickly sign in on the clipboard, clip any passes to the clipboard, and quickly take their seats. See the student handbook for consequences of frequent tardiness.

Passes:

If a student is in need of a pass out of the classroom, he/she should respectfully ask Miss Gurganus at an appropriate time (such as during a pause in a learning activity) and present Miss Gurganus with his/her agenda planner. Without an agenda planner, the student will need to wait for Miss Gurganus to write a pass. Students leaving the room with a pass should sign out and sign back in on the clipboard.

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 at:

<http://www.missgurganus.com>

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

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 the teacher 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. (Lincoln High School teachers cannot mark absences as excused.) 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 should be made up before or after school. Students have one week from the date of the lab, test, quiz, or group work to make up the assignment. **Ask the teacher about make-up options.**

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/notebook 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

E-mail address: gurganus@lincolnk12.org

Web site URL: <http://www.missgurganus.com>

Twitter: @gurganus_lhs

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
- 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****