

# Jefferson City High School Chemistry Syllabus, 2023-2024

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Welcome to Chemistry!

## I. Course Description

Chemistry is an introductory course preparing the student for further studies in chemistry in college. It is directed toward explaining the composition of matter. Emphasis is placed on chemical principles and their application, problem solving, and the development of laboratory skills. **Prerequisite: Successful completion or, concurrent enrollment in Geometry.**

### Course Curricular Objectives

The Chemistry course at Jefferson City High School is vitally important in helping students experience the richness and excitement of knowing about and understanding the natural world.

- Appropriate scientific processes and principles in making personal decisions
- Effectively engage in public discourse and debate about matters of scientific and technological concern
- Increase in student's economic productivity throughout their careers through the use of the knowledge, understanding, and skills employed by the scientifically literate person

## II. Course Materials and Preparation

We will use Google Classroom as our learning platform on which announcements will be posted. We will be using the book *Introductory Chemistry* published by Tro. Chemistry books may be checked out if requested. The students will also be provided with other materials that review or enrich the content presented in class. In addition, students are expected to bring a **three ring binder** to organize all class notes or handouts, **loose-leaf notebook paper**, and a pen or pencil to class every day. A set of calculators will be provided for use in the classroom.

Students who review notes and complete assignments daily, utilize academic lab, and take advantage of retakes when available are most successful. Students need to be proactive and communicate with their teachers when they are confused or struggling.

## III. Course Policies and Procedures

**A. Behavior:** Students will respect the rights of others in the classroom, and the school's equipment and facilities. All students will be required to pass a safety quiz and return a signed safety contract (student and guardian) in order to participate in labs. It is a privilege to do labs. They help to make learning meaningful, fun and exciting. For safety reasons, a student who behaves inappropriately during labs will not be allowed to finish the lab. If horseplay is involved, the student potentially endangers other students in class and will be referred to the office.

**B. Absences:** Daily attendance is **strongly recommended** in this course (and all other courses). Make-up privileges will be as follows:

- If you are **absent due to a school function** (extracurricular activities, field trips, etc.), you are expected to get your assignments **PRIOR** to your leave and complete them by the **due date**. It will be your responsibility to come in for any additional help as needed before/after school to get the work done on time.
- If you have an **Excused** absence, (not due to a school function), you are expected to see the teacher **before or after school on the day you return** to pick up all make-up work. Do not expect assignments to be given to you during valuable class time. The rule for any make-up work is if you miss one day, you will have two nights to make up the homework. If you miss two days of class, you will be given three days to make up the work and so on.
- Credit for make-up work will be allowed for up to four (4) absences during a nine (9)-week term for **Not Documented Excused** and **Unexcused absences**. However, if a student is **truant** they will not receive any credit for make-up work regardless of the number of days they have been absent. The fifth and above absence will result in a zero for any homework, labs, or tests given that day. The only one who can excuse your absence is your assigned principal.

**C. Homework Policy:** Students will be given homework assignments to practice their skills. These assignments are crucial for students to expand their understanding, and will give both teacher and student an opportunity to check comprehension of the material before moving on. Homework assignments will be discussed and checked the next day in class, giving students the opportunity to ask questions to further increase their understanding. Homework is **due** at the **start of the class period**. Scoring on homework will be as follows:

- 4 All of the assignment is complete, and a **legitimate** attempt and all work is shown on every problem
- 3 Most of the assignment has been attempted, but a few problems or work are missing
- 2 Half of the assignment is complete
- 1 One fourth of the assignment is complete
- 0 No homework assignment is turned in. Failure to turn in assignments on time may result in an academic referral

Late homework will be accepted from a unit until the unit test is taken. Any missing assignments will become a zero the day of the test. Late homework is automatically worth half credit, implying that if homework would have been worth a score of 4, it now receives a score of 2.

**D. Testing and Retake Policy:** Due to changes in JCHS building policies, tests missed due to an absence on test day must be made up within three days of the student's return to school. Science Department policy is that students must make up their test the day they return to school in either the student's Jaytime, or the following day during their science class. Any school work missed during the class period is due the following day. Students may request a before school or after school test makeup time, but the test must be completed by the end of their science class on the third day after their absence.

TEST Retake	QUIZ Retake
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One test per unit; only one retake per semester</li> <li>• Can retake if <b>all</b> homework for the unit has received a score of "4"</li> <li>• Can retake if original score was less than mastery (80%)</li> <li>• Must schedule and attend a study session before retake</li> <li>• Second score will be recorded</li> <li>• Must be taken prior to the next unit test <b>or</b> by the specified date</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least one quiz per unit</li> <li>• Can retake any quiz, except memorization quizzes</li> <li>• Second score will be recorded</li> <li>• Must be taken prior to the unit test <b>or</b> by the specified date</li> </ul>

**E. Lab Policy:** Students are expected to do all lab activities. If a student is absent, he/she must arrange a time to make up the lab with your teacher.

**F. Academic Dishonesty:** Cheating on tests or homework will result in:

- A zero grade for the entire test or assignment.
- Parental notification if caught cheating on a test or assignment
- Notification to the appropriate principal if caught cheating on a test.

**G. Technology:** Electronic devices will be used for academic purposes only. **If students do bring cell phones and/or other electronic devices to school, they will need to be turned off during class periods and stored in their backpacks or assigned lockers.** Cell phone usage is only permitted during passing times and the lunch periods. These privileges may be revoked by administration when deemed necessary. **Headphones or ear buds will need to be stored securely and should not be worn during class time unless the teacher has approved an activity that requires listening on chrome books or school provided media.** A student using these items without permission is subject to discipline consequences. Refer to the Prohibited Conduct; Technology Misconduct; 'a' in Section VI of this planner for consequence detail.

A	93-100	B-	80-82	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	C+	77-79	D	63-66
B+	87-89	C	73-76	D-	60-62
B	83-86	C-	70-72	F	59-0

#### IV. Grading Policy/Assessment

##### A. Grading Scale - Jefferson City School District

##### B. Weighting System of Grade Calculation per Term:

- Tests and quizzes 60%
- Labs 15%
- Homework and daily work 15%
- Comprehensive Exams 10%
- No extra credit assignments are offered in this course.

#### V. Course Procedures

- Students need to be in their seats when the bell rings and begin working on the daily opener question.
- Chemistry class is to be used for the study of chemistry. You will not be allowed to work on homework from any other class unless your chemistry work is complete. Any homework from other classes that is out when you should be working on chemistry will be confiscated.
- Daily participation in chemistry is expected. We do a lot of calculations and problems together as a class. If you do not participate, your grade will suffer.
- Labs need to be cleaned up appropriately before the end-of-class bell rings. No late passes will be written. There should be no used paper towels or lab materials left on the floor or counters, the sinks and strainer should be clean, and lab equipment returned to the proper place.
- Students must be in their seats at the end of class in order to be dismissed. The teacher will dismiss the students, not the bell. **You will not be permitted to line up at the door before the end of class.**

#### VI. Communication Statement

My intent is to help all students be successful and to facilitate a positive learning environment. I am easy to get along with, but I have high expectations for all of my students. I will not accept anything less than your best and you shouldn't either. I am at school by 8:30 a.m. and stay until at least 4:00 p.m.; I am willing to stay later if a student needs help. I am available before and after school in room J211. Don't hesitate to ask for help or to discuss grades! **Communication is key.**

I provide students with printed and highlighted grade reports per unit, indicating progress and missing work. Infinite Campus is updated weekly and messages for missing work and unsatisfactory grades are generated and delivered via email to both parents and students. Please feel free to contact me by email anytime or by phone before or after school.

The course code for Google Classroom is \_\_\_\_\_. Please refer to daily announcements for practice, notes, classwork and homework.

#### VII. Contact Information

You and your parents are welcome to contact me through the science department phone at 659-3096 or 659-3077 or through email at [nicole.mcmorris@jcschools.us](mailto:nicole.mcmorris@jcschools.us).

## CHEMISTRY 2023-2024

Please read through the chemistry syllabus before signing the form below, especially the following sections: absences, homework policy, test/quiz retake policy, and technology. The district technology policy is also printed below:

“Electronic devices will be used for academic purposes only. If students do bring cell phones and/or other electronic devices to school, they will need to be turned off during class periods and stored in their backpacks or assigned lockers. Cell phone usage is only permitted during passing times and the lunch periods. These privileges may be revoked by administration when deemed necessary. Headphones or ear buds will need to be stored securely and should not be worn during class time unless the teacher has approved an activity that requires listening on chrome books or school provided media. A student using these items without permission is subject to discipline consequences. Refer to the Prohibited Conduct; Technology Misconduct; ‘a’ in Section VI of this planner for consequence detail.”

### Student and Parent Signature Form:

I \_\_\_\_\_ (student name

and block), have read and understand the course expectations, prerequisites, recommendations and policies outlined in this syllabus. My signature indicates that I will use classroom resources with respect and understand and will comply with course policies as I put forth my best efforts to be successful in this class.

I \_\_\_\_\_ (parent or

guardian), have read and understand the course expectations, prerequisites, recommendations and policies outlined in this syllabus.

\*\*\*MAKE SURE TO SIGN THE LAB SAFETY CONTRACT ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE\*\*\*