

## General Chemistry

General chemistry is designed to introduce students to the basic principals of chemistry necessary for an in depth study of any of the various disciplines of science and engineering. Students will obtain the skills and knowledge necessary for a better understanding of the scientific aspects of our modern world via participation in solving science related societal issues and laboratory investigations. Students will have opportunities to develop their communication skills (writing, speaking, reading), research, laboratory experimentation, group participation, critical thinking, and problem solving.

Chemistry is a recommended course for college admission and is essential if a student is planning to study one of the sciences in college (plus it is really cool!). Prerequisites include the ability to solve algebraic equations similar to those encountered in the first year of high school algebra and competent skill in laboratory writing techniques. Because there is a great deal of material to be covered, the class will move at a rapid pace.

### COURSE INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Justin Villard  
Eaglecrest High School  
Voice Mail: 720-886-1102  
**E Mail:** [jvillard@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:jvillard@cherrycreekschools.org)  
**Web Page:** [www.science-nerd.com](http://www.science-nerd.com)

### Availability:

I will be available to talk to parents and students before school from 6:55 to 7:25, during periods 2A + 3A, and after school until 3:30 P.M. most days *by appointment*. Please contact me to arrange an appointment.

### Class work:

The primary focus of this course is lab work. **Students will be expected to be active participants in this class.** Everyone has some contributions to make to the class, and everyone is encouraged to bring out the best in their classmates.

### Textbooks:

Chemistry: Visualizing Matter by R. Thomas Myers and Keith B. Oldham.

### Homework:

Homework will be assigned regularly in this class. Assignments will vary. Often you will be analyzing data from a lab and drawing conclusions, you may be searching for current articles, taking notes from an assigned reading, planning a design of a lab, preparing for an exam or quiz, or other assignments that can be completed outside of the classroom. You will be told at the time when the assignment is due. **Please read late work policy.**

**Students that have been successful in this course have attended regularly, been prepared each day, paid attention in class, actively participated, and asked questions when they did not understand.** Study groups, nightly review of material, and visiting my office are also highly recommended. Your success is ultimately your responsibility. This course is FUN and I hope that you will take full advantage of what it has to offer.

### Grades:

A variety of **evaluation techniques** will be used including word problems, multiple choice, essay, true/false and/or completion questions. Written reports will be evaluated for spelling and composition errors along with scientific content and thought processes.

Semester **GRADES** will be based on the following: (with the approximate percent values)

- 25% **Mastery Tests\*** - every 1 or 2 chapters
- 25% **Lab Reports** - due the class after a post-lab discussion and graded half for completion and half for correctness.
- 15% **Homework** - graded half for completion and half for correctness
- 15% **Review Quizzes** – approximately one per chapter, usually near the end of a chapter.
- 20% **Final Exam** – Will be cumulative for the entire semester.

Letter grades will be assigned based on the following percentages. Grades **WILL NOT BE ROUNDED**; you must demonstrate **CONSISTENT AND CONTINUOUS** performance throughout the **ENTIRE** semester to maintain the grade you desire.

<b>A:</b> 100% - 90.0%	<b>B:</b> 89.9% - 80.0%	<b>C:</b> 79.9% - 70.0%
<b>D:</b> 69.9% - 60.0%	<b>Unacceptable:</b> 59.9% - 0.00%	

You will be notified regularly of your grade. Do not hesitate to ask me how you are doing. I will need 24 hours to get the information to you. **Grades can also be accessed via PowerGrade. Only you will be able to access your grade. Grades are updated on a regular basis.**

**Materials:** The following is a list of materials, which you **MUST** collect for this class:

- 3-ring binder at least 2" (you will fill it up)**
- 6 dividers (Notes, Handouts, Labs, Homework, Quizzes, Tests)**
- Lined and Graph Paper**
- Colored Pencils (at least six colors)**
- Highlighters (4 different colors)**
- Scientific Calculator (Graphing Calculators are a major bonus but not required)**

**Class Policies: In addition to school policies!**

1. Each student will receive **four** passes for restroom use, lockers, tardiness, late work etc. over the course of the semester. After the four have been used, no more passes will be given. You can return each pass to me at the end of the semester for an additional 1% extra credit per pass. It is your responsibility to keep track of your passes. If you lose them, you lose the points and the passes. I will not replace them for you.
2. **Unexcused absences** - see student handbook - zeros for worked missed - I will discuss any unexcused absence with you. **Multiple** unexcused absences will result in a failing grade in the course unless an agreement is reached between EHS administration, you, your parents, and myself.
3. **Make-up Work** - see student handbook - Assignments are due the next class period after you return, unless the absence has been lengthy. It is your responsibility to get make-up work on your **OWN TIME** -- especially if you have an off-hour before class. Even though you may return on a day when we do not have class, you still need to get your missing work so you can prepare for the next class. Please do not ask me for make up work just before or during a class. **Assignment schedules and handouts are posted on my web page to allow you easy access to missing assignments.**
4. Due to the nature of the substances used in this science class, food/beverages are **NOT** allowed at lab stations. Water will be allowed at desks along as they have a screw on cap.
5. Equipment broken due to carelessness will be the student's responsibility. The student will be charged for the broken item according to the most current catalog price including shipping charges.
6. **Late Work** - The assignments given in this class are essential in aiding your understanding of the course content. You must make an effort to complete them on time to receive the full

benefit of the assignment. With that said, I do understand that situations may arise that do not allow you to complete the assignment. Late work will be accepted without penalty until the next class period. At that time, zeros will be given for all missing assignments. Here is the catch: to turn in an assignment late, you must staple one of your extra credit passes to the front. After you run out of passes, late assignments will no longer be accepted. Late work should be turned in to the appropriate bin on my desk.

7. **Tardiness** - Each class period begins the moment the bell rings. In this class we will follow the "contact rule", which means that you must be in your seat to be considered on time. The EHS tardy policy will be strictly enforced.

\*If you are more than 10 minutes late, you will receive an unexcused absence.

8. Each student has the right to pursue an education in a safe, supportive, and tolerant environment. I expect you to make every attempt to make this happen. In turn, you will be treated in the same manner. THANKS!

9. While the most important component of this class is your personal education, we can and will have some fun while meeting this objective.

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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print) August \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parents,

Your child is currently enrolled in my chemistry course for the 2008-2009 school year. Each student has been issued an information sheet regarding course expectations and the grading policy. Please ask your child for this document and review the contents.

Your signature below does not mean you must agree with my policies, only that you have been made aware of them. Returning this letter, signed by a parent or guardian, will constitute the first GRADED assignment for the semester.

*I am aware of the course expectations and grading policies for Mr. Villard's chemistry class.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent email)

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to a fun and productive semester with your child. If, at any time, you wish to contact me regarding your student please use the voice mail or email information found below. I personally prefer using email. I check my email account multiple times during the day, while I only check my voice mail at the beginning of the EHS work day.

Sincerely,

Justin M Villard  
Science Teacher  
Voice Mail: 720-886-1102  
jvillard@cherrycreekschools.org