

A Letter from Mr. Papadakis & Mr. Groves

EXPECTATIONS

Hello New AP Chemistry Student,

This summer, we will study and test on Chapters 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6. We will save *most* of Chapter 2 for September. Your Chapter 1 test is this Friday.

Who will succeed in AP chemistry?

AP chemistry is a *fast-paced*, challenging course for those students who can consistently work hard, pick up ideas quickly, and manage their time effectively. You will need to keep yourself on task, make certain you understand each day's ideas *before you leave the classroom*, and work on chemistry *every day*. Never tell yourself "I don't have chemistry homework." You may have a day where there is nothing due the next day, but you always have your book to read, you always have current and old chapters to review, and you always have your *AP preparation book* with which to practice.

Much like a college course, you are expected to TEACH YOURSELF the material. What we do in class is simply an added benefit.

If you are willing to put in the time and effort every day, we will work with you to make certain you survive AP chemistry. If you are smart, but lazy (you know who you are) you should make an appointment with your counselor right away to change to general chemistry where you will be a star. Success in AP chemistry certainly requires intelligence, but perseverance and consistent effort are requirements as well.

Supplies you will need:

For the class, you will need an inexpensive scientific calculator (TI-30 is my favorite), but a graphing calculator is fine for everything *except the multiple choice portions of the exams*. If you cannot afford a calculator, see one of us privately and we will lend you one for the year.

You will need a notebook for your notes. You will be surprised at the value those early notes will have for the AP exam in May.

Early on, you should purchase an AP chemistry test preparation book (5 Steps to a 5, Princeton Review, Barrons, etc.) Using this book independently will help you prepare for this class as well as the AP exam. Again, if you cannot afford one, see us privately. There are several on the shelves to borrow.

Time and Money Requirements:

You are expected (but not forced) to take the AP chemistry exam on Tuesday, May 11th, 2010. It will cost approximately \$96.00. (Warn parents.)

You are also expected to meet for one extra two-hour class session most weeks during the year. In 2009, we met on Sundays, 3-5 p.m. and 5-7 p.m., and Mondays, 3-5 p.m. and 5-7 p.m.

You are expected to do *every homework assignment* and remember to *turn it in on the date due*. Lame suggestions such as "It's on my desk at home." or "I only brought my **even day folder** today" rate with "My dog ate my homework." While true, they are no excuse. You will have the option of dropping two missing assignments at the end of the semester in the realization that things DO sometimes occur that keep you from handing in your assignments. If you manage to turn in all of your assignments, you may drop your lowest exam score instead. It is your choice how you choose to use this option.

Parting Shots:

We are here to help you learn enough chemistry so you will be able to pass the AP chemistry exam next May. *We are also here to help some of you decide that you are in the wrong class*. Every former AP student will tell you truthfully that the summer class is "very easy" compared to the rest of the year.

If you are finding this class much of a challenge due to your learning speed, your lack of study skills, your attitude, or the number of other commitments you have, contact your counselor *immediately*.

We are serious. It only gets harder.