

**AP Chemistry Syllabus & Classroom Procedures**  
**New Canaan High School**  
**Mrs. Cascioli**

**All students and their parents/guardian are required to read this syllabus. A google form verification must be filled out. This is a required assignment.**

**TEACHER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Teacher: Mrs. Laura Cascioli  
E-mail: laura.cascioli@ncps-k12.org (**best method of contact**)  
Website: Google Classroom (student email required for access); transition to schoology  
Office: Room 313

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

AP Chemistry is a fast paced, laboratory intensive course designed to prepare students to take the Advanced Placement Examination in Chemistry. Students will use a variety of technology to collect data in the laboratory and transfer it to computer for analysis. The computer will also be used to create and analyze molecular models, access the internet to collect data, and for multimedia projects. Conceptually, the major emphasis is on developing an understanding of the structure and function of atoms and molecules and their system dynamics.

Course Requirement: Each laboratory will have a detailed lab report. A graphing calculator will be used extensively. A grade of 70 or better is necessary to continue second Semester.

**GENERAL RULES**

- Respect other students, the teacher, and their property.
- Come to class prepared and on time
- Follow directions immediately
- Work hard and try your best.
- Learn from your mistakes
- Put away any distractions.

**TEXTBOOK**

Zumdahl, Steven, and Susan Zumdahl. Chemistry. 9<sup>th</sup> edition, AP Edition. Cengage Learning.

**REQUIRED SUPPLIES**

- Pens, #2 pencils, graphing calculator
- Lab folder or lab binder to keep returned labs in
- 3-ring binder with looseleaf (or notebook) and folder

**WORK LOAD**

It is expected that you dedicating **25 minutes per day** outside of class to this course, even if you have no assignments due the following day. Most assignments stretch several days or an entire chapter. It is the student's responsibility to distribute their workload in this way so that they are not overwhelmed with work. Lab reports should not be left until last minute, and time in the lab should be maximized to help complete the majority of work. **Do not let work accumulate!** There will be extra review questions posted for practice before tests, and it is advised that you leave time to allow yourself to work on these problems.

**GRADING**

Determination of grade: Grades will be calculated quarterly as an **average of total points earned over points possible**. Below is a breakdown of points per category per quarter for reference. **Points and amounts given are estimates only**. This breakdown may be changed at the discretion of the teacher.

Category	Typical Points per Item	Approx. Amount per Quarter (except quarter 4)
<b>Tests</b>	≈ 80 - 110 pts	≈ 3 - 4
<b>Labs</b>	20 pts	≈ 5 - 7
<b>Homework/Quizzes</b>	10 - 25 pts	≈ 6 - 9

## ASSESSMENTS

- Tests will be given on one or two chapters and will consist of multiple choice and free response questions, similar to an AP exam. On tests, questions may be on previously covered material, as the AP exam is a comprehensive test. On the multiple choice portion, calculators may be prohibited (as on the AP exam). Tests may be single or double periods or may span more than one day for larger chapters. Tests will typically be announced 1 week in advance. A new chapter may be introduced before the last chapters test to allow more studying time. On average, most chapters take about 2 weeks to cover. The AP reference table will be available for every test.
- Tests consist of mostly AP questions and are thus significantly more difficult than an honors level test (remember, a “5” on an AP chemistry exam translates to roughly 78% or more correct). Tests require a substantial amount of preparation and also require practice in time management. Tests are not curved, and thus corrections may be offered for students to receive back a maximum of 25% of the points lost. Corrections, if offered, must be detailed and follow all guidelines in order to receive credit. Corrections will be phased out throughout the year as students learn test expectations.
- Quizzes may be announced or unannounced, however most will be given with one day’s notice.
- Tests, quizzes, and some homework assignments may not be returned to the student or allowed to leave the school in order to preserve academic integrity. Often, time will be given in class for students to review their tests. A student may see me before school (see extra help section) to go over their test/quiz to both see and learn from their mistakes. Please see the teacher within the week that the test/quiz is given.
- The midterm and final must be taken by all students and will function as mock AP exams with similar questions, timing, and instructions. The midterm will take up both the class period block and the lab period block. See me if there is a conflict with the lab period block. The final will be taken in class before the AP exam. Keep in mind that other AP finals may be the same week.

## CLASS NOTES:

Notes are typically given via PowerPoint. At times, students may be required to download these notes. It is expected that students **have read the chapter in the textbook** before it is covered in class, whether explicitly assigned in class or not. Notes are meant to supplement the students’ reading.

## ASSIGNMENTS:

- In order to succeed in this class, you must do the homework for practice. PACE yourself.
- Homework sets involving textbook questions will typically be given at the beginning of the chapter. They will typically be due on the day of the test for a grade, so it is up to the students to pace themselves.
- Assignments will typically be posted on google classroom. It is the responsibility of the student to check google classroom daily.
- Late homework or assignments will have a 50% point reduction if handed in the day after it is due.
- Some assignments may require students to print out, access, or submit files on Google Classroom.
- **On snow days, students are expected to check google classroom for assignments.** We must stick to a schedule, and thus if school is cancelled, students may need to do work on their own.
- Before tests, ungraded review material will be posted on google classroom involving additional practice multiple choice and free response. Students must pace themselves with the textbook homework so that time is left to complete these additional reviews in order to succeed on tests.

## LABORATORY

- Students are responsible for submitting every lab, whether they are present or absent.
- Each student will complete an **individual** detailed lab write-up for each lab and answer all prelab and post-lab questions, free responses, and submit all appropriate data and graphs. This write up is due the **NEXT** lab day at the beginning of class, unless otherwise specified. Labs take time to complete and students should pace themselves in their completion.
- Failure to submit a write-up will result in a zero. Late labs receive partial credit at teacher’s discretion.
- The lab grade is based on both work submitted and the student’s behavior during the lab. Points will be deducted for inappropriate or unsafe behavior or for failure to clean up a lab station.

- Due to the nature of labs, it is extremely important that you be here on lab days. Labs involve chemicals and equipment that may be available on lab day only. If absent, the student MUST see the teacher for a make-up lab immediately. Failure to do so will result in a zero.
- Graded labs must be kept in a lab binder or lab folder.

### **MAKE-UP WORK**

- It is the responsibility of the student to obtain the class notes and make up both assignments and labs missed due to excused absences. Email the teacher, see PowerSchool, or see the class Google Classroom page for certain assignments.
- For excused absences: Make-up work is due the day that the student returns to class. Tests/quizzes/lab activities must be made up within one week of the missed activity, unless prior arrangements are made (like in extended absences). Failure to do so may result in a zero.
- Excessive absences on test days may result in a harder make-up test than the original in order to preserve academic integrity.

### **EXTRA HELP**

- If you need additional help at any time, please see me or email me to make an appointment for extra help. I will be available for about 25 minutes before the start of the first period on most B, C, D, F, G, and H days. Please check in the day before to be sure. Students from other classes may be present.

To the Parents/Guardians:

Awareness and involvement in your son or daughter's schoolwork is the first step in their achieving success. I encourage you to read over and discuss the course syllabus and expectancies with him/her so that any questions may be answered.

AP Chemistry is designed to be a very fast-paced, rigorous, and intensive course. Due to this, even though most assignments may be due several days or weeks later, students are expected to distribute their workload to 25 minutes per day outside of class so that they do not feel overwhelmed. It is important that students work hard, stay on top of their assignments, do all of their homework, and see me if they need extra help right away.

My goal, with your help, is for every student to be successful in this course. If we; student, teacher, and parent, can make a commitment to work together than this will be an obtainable goal. Your questions and comments are always welcome. Please feel free to contact me at New Canaan High School. Email is the best method of contacting me.

This information letter is for your reference and records. One of the students' first assignments is to fill out a google form confirming that they have received this information, are aware of the policies and expectancies of the AP chemistry class, and have shown these policies and expectancies to their parents/guardians. The google form also asks for your emails, as I will use this to communicate with you and send emails with updates regarding upcoming tests and class progress.

Thank you,

Laura Cascioli  
New Canaan High School  
E-mail: [laura.cascioli@ncps-k12.org](mailto:laura.cascioli@ncps-k12.org)