

DAWSON HIGH SCHOOL

PAP-CHEMISTRY

Dr. Williams

williamsby@pearlandisd.org

Room 3102

Welcome to Chemistry!

I hope you find this Chemistry class challenging and fun. I love Chemistry. I think it is fascinating! The Pre-AP level is a rigorous course meant to prepare students for college and for AP Chemistry. Students taking this class should have taken Pre-AP Biology and should have taken or currently be enrolled in Pre-AP Algebra II. As your teacher, I will commit to teach you Pre-AP Chemistry to the very best of my ability. By communicating and working together, we will meet the challenge.

Course Description:

Chemistry is the study of the structure, composition, and behavior of matter. You will investigate matter, its interactions, and the factors affecting the interactions. Chemistry is a laboratory-oriented course that stresses the observation of matter and its behavior, classification of matter, communication of data, measurement of chemical quantities, prediction of chemical phenomena, and manipulation of chemical investigations. You will acquire data by using your senses and instrumentation. The laboratory investigations emphasize the safe manipulation of laboratory apparatus and materials, accurate observations, data collection and analysis. The topics covered in this course include: matter and change, scientific measurement, subatomic particles, chemical periodicity, chemical bonding, chemical formulas/equations, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, states of matter, representative gases, thermochemistry, aqueous solutions, and acids/bases.

Textbook and Materials:

You will receive electronic access to the textbook *Chemistry* (McGraw Hill). Other supplies that are required daily are:

- paper/pen/pencil/eraser
- a binder or folder in which to keep class materials
- a notebook or paper for notes
- a scientific calculator (graphing calculators are NOT required, but your calculator should have LOG and EXPONENT functions)

Class Rules:

1. **Be in your seat when the tardy bell rings.**
2. **Be courteous and respectful to others.**

Give your full attention to others in discussions. Raise your hand and wait for acknowledgment by the teacher before speaking. Respect the properties of other students, the teacher, and the school. Remain in your assigned seat unless you have permission to get up.

3. **Be productive and participate in class.**

Ask questions, contribute to the answer, and play an active role in the class activities.

4. **Follow the teacher's directions the FIRST time they are given.**
5. **No food or drink is allowed during class.**

Online Etiquette:

- We will meet on TEAMS. Attendance is required. Turn on your camera throughout the entire class period and blur your background. You will be marked absent if I cannot see you. Turn off your microphone unless you are speaking to the class. You are prohibited from making any recordings of our meetings.
- Dress appropriately while you are attending the class, even though you are home.
- Communicate with me via email if you have any issues.

Class Participation and Make-up Work: It is important that you be present in class to ask questions, contribute to class discussions, and participate in class activities. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to communicate with me and make up any missing assignments in the time frame according to the PISD handbook. Missed exams, quizzes, and labs must be made up as soon as possible after your absence. Only two test retakes or test corrections are allowed per grading period.

Classroom Behavior: Come into the room, pick up any handouts, and begin working on the warm-up. Bring all your materials with you every day. The dress code will be strictly enforced. Cell phones should never be out, if they are, they will be confiscated. *Respect and courtesy for other students and your teacher are always expected!*

Laboratory Work: Hopefully we will all return to school later this school year. Good lab skills are an important part of being a well-trained science student. **Safety in the lab is critical!** You cannot start lab work until you pass a safety test with a score of 90%. Safety glasses must be worn at all times, and open-toed shoes are not permitted. Anyone breaking the safety rules will get a zero on the lab. Leave the lab stations clean and neat. If you miss a lab, talk to me about a makeup assignment or rescheduling.

Homework: Homework is assigned daily. It is important to keep up with homework and assignments in this course. Although you may work with others on homework assignments, you must work alone on quizzes and tests. Although homework adds up to a small percentage of your overall grade, it is critical to complete and understand the homework if you want to do well in the course.

Cheating: Cheating is defined as any act of deceit, trickery, or fraud on an assignment or test. It includes copying another person's work or lending one's work to another. It could include, but is not limited to, using written notes on a test, giving or receiving hand signals, using telecommunication devices, looking at another student's paper, or allowing another student to copy one's answers on labs or assignments. Cheating will be penalized by a ZERO on the assignment. Parents will be contacted, and an office referral will be submitted. See DHS Student Handbook for consequences (including loss of eligibility for honor societies).

Grading: Your grade includes major assignments (tests, quizzes, and projects) which count as 60% of your grade. Labs count 30% and homework and other daily work is 10%. Labs and projects are penalized 10% each day that they are late.

Study Tips and Extra Help: Never hesitate to ask a question, either in class or outside of class! Understanding chemical concepts takes time and effort, but the time you spend should be effective. If you are confused, try to look at things in a new way. You should have a regular time to study every day and incorporate the following suggestions:

1. **Take good notes** Learning how to take good notes requires practice and the development of your own style of note taking. It is sometimes helpful to leave wide margins or space between notes so that you can add more information later. Go over your notes as soon as possible so that you remember what was said and why those notes are important. I always work sample problems, and explaining to yourself *how* the problems were done and *why* each step was taken will help with your understanding of the material.
2. **Study your notes and the book** Between the two presentations of the new ideas, you should have a better understanding of the material. If something that you wrote in your notes doesn't make sense, check the book and vice-versa.
3. **Answer questions and problems** Applying the new material by working problems is one of the best ways of testing your understandings of that material. Do your homework!
4. **Organize your materials** Keep a working notebook with sections for notes and handouts, homework, labs, and quizzes.
5. **Tutoring.** If after these steps, you are still having problems, then it is time for you to seek tutoring. I keep tutoring hours, you can hire a personal tutor, or you can set up small group study sessions. A word of

caution about small group study sessions: these only work once all other study methods have been tried. Going to a group study before you have read the book, looked over notes, or tried the material/problems on your own is often one of the worst mistakes a student can make. Group studies reinforce learned material and clarify concepts. But you must already be familiar with the material for group study to be effective.

Tutoring on TEAMS: I am available on Monday and Wednesday for tutoring during class and during C lunch/advisory time; and also on Friday from 1:00 – 2:00 pm. If you are having difficulty with the material, please ask for help before you feel overwhelmed. Frequent, quick discussions are more helpful than getting help just once in a while. If at any time you or your parent would like to discuss your progress, please request an individual conference with me by phone (281-412-8800) or E-mail (williamsby@pearlandisd.org).