

FOUNDATIONS CHEMISTRY

Red Rock Central High School 2019-2020

Mrs. Paula Derickson, Instructor

WELCOME to Foundations Chemistry, a one-credit elective science class.

Topics that will be covered in this course include: the nature and history of science, basic science communication skills, laboratory techniques and safety, dimensional analysis, stoichiometry, naming & writing formulas, atomic structure, balancing equations, and other topics of interest. The overall goal of this course is to expose you to chemistry concepts required for graduation per Minnesota statute.

Grade cutoffs are as follows:

- Above 90% - A (90-93% = A-)
- Above 80% - B (87-89% = B+; 80-83% = B-)
- Above 70% - C (77-79% = C+; 70-73% = C-)
- Above 60% - D (67-69% = D+; 60-63% = D-)

Grade weights will be approximately

- 40% tests/quizzes
- 30% daily work/science in the news
- 20% lab work
- 10% readiness/participation

These weights are approximate and may change depending on the subject matter and time constraints.

Extra credit: Extra credit opportunities can be arranged. To qualify for extra credit, you **must be current with all assignments**. If you feel you would benefit from extra credit opportunities, contact the instructor **NO LATER THAN 2 weeks prior** to the end of the quarter.

My expectations of you:

- **You will come to class ready to work every day.** This means you should bring your textbook, notebook, writing utensil, calculator, and AR book to class, whether they will be used that day or not. You may need your Chromebook occasionally; I will let you know when to bring it. You will need a blue or black pen for lab. Any other utensil used in writing lab reports will result in a reduction of points.
- **RESPECT.**
 - **You will show respect to your classmates and the instructor.** Examples of this include: listening while others are speaking; keeping hands, feet, and materials to yourself; and making relevant contributions to discussions.
 - **You will respect all materials and equipment** both in the laboratory and the classroom.
 - **You will respect RRC's cell phone policy.** Please place your cell phone, turned to silent, in the designated place for phones and leave it there until class is over. **YOU MAY NOT USE YOUR CELL PHONE WITHOUT PERMISSION.**
- **You will follow all lab safety rules at all times while in the laboratory,** for your protection as well as others. We will talk more about specific safety rules in this first week of school.
- **Your homework will be turned in on time.** All assignments will be due at the beginning of the next class period unless specifically stated otherwise.

- **You will always do your best work.** If you don't understand something, please ask. Chances are, someone else has the same question as you.
- **You will cover your textbook; and keep the cover, as well as the book, in good condition.**

Late work/absences:

- Unless prior arrangements have been made, late daily work will result in an automatic reduction of points. Total possible points will reduce by 10% per day the assignment is late. No late work will be accepted for the chapter after the chapter test has been taken.
- In the case of an excused absence, students have 2 days to make up daily work for the first day that was missed, and one day for every day after that. The point reduction policy will take effect after those days have passed.
- If a test is missed due to an excused absence, it will be made up **the day you return** to class. If class activities prevent making up the test during class time, you will be expected to come in early or stay after school.
- If a lab is missed due to an excused absence, arrangements must be made to make up the lab work before school or after school. Lab makeups must be supervised by the instructor so most study hall times will not work. Missed labs must be made up within 5 class days to receive credit. I will allow one (1) dry lab per student, per semester.
- It is your responsibility to find out what you have missed in the event of an absence.
- If you know in advance that you will miss class, you are expected to do any assignment (and turn it in on time) just as if you were in class.

Rationale:

Even if you do not intend to pursue a career in science, it is important that you take your science classes and grades seriously. The reason for this is twofold. 1) It's a fact of life - society is dependent on technology! As a result, communities, nations, and the world will rely more heavily on its citizens (YOU) to understand the science required to make sound decisions on public policy. It is to everyone's benefit for you to use your scientific knowledge to evaluate consequences of any available option and make decisions based on those evaluations. In other words, you need to be able to discern facts from fiction. 2) I want you to leave chemistry class with a confident attitude, so that when you take other science classes you are up to the challenge.

LET'S HAVE A GREAT YEAR!!!