



# Deer Valley Unified School District

**Mr. Rich Stein**

**Course Title: Honors Chemistry**

Class Text- Glencoe. Chemistry: Matter and Change

**Room #: E216**

**Prep: 6<sup>th</sup> period**

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## Course Description:

This course will teach you useful information, both about Chemistry and the world around you, that you will use for the rest of your life. Be prepared to work very hard and have fun this year. This course is aligned with district, state, and national standards to support school-wide efforts in increasing student achievement.

## Course Objectives:

By the time the students completes this course of study, the student will:

1. Have enhanced study and test taking skills.
2. Have an increased appreciation of the world around us.
3. Have developed critical thinking skills.
4. Be prepared for college level courses in science.

In addition to the course objectives listed above, the following College and Career Ready Anchor Standards for Writing are also embedded;

- Standard 1- Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
- Standard 2- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
- Standard 9- Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

## Classroom Rules and Consequences:

1. Follow directions the first time
2. Respect others and their property
3. Use appropriate language
4. Be on time and prepared for class
5. Be an active learner

## Consequence Steps:

1. Verbal warning
2. Conference with teacher
3. After school detention and parent phone call
4. Referral

**Cheating:** If a student is caught cheating both students will receive a zero! If a student talks during a test for any reason to any student, both students will receive a zero. Sharing answers on class work is also cheating and both students will receive a zero.

## Grades:

### **Grading Scale (rounding)**

- A = 100 - 90
- B = 89 - 80
- C = 79 - 70
- D = 69 - 60
- F = 59 - 0

### **Your grades will be weighted as follows:**

- 30% Homework, labs, assignments, notebook checks
- 50% Tests, quizzes
- 20% Final Exam (This will be at the end of each semester)  
The exam will be a comprehensive test.

**\*\* There is no extra credit or late work at MRHS**

## Homework:

Homework will be a crucial part of your grade. The benefit of doing your homework each night does not lie in the points you earn. The benefit lies in your performance on tests and quizzes. If you do your homework (with reasonable effort), you will do well in this class. Your homework will be graded for completion, not accuracy. Grading for completion allows you to get immediate feedback on your assignment. **NO LATE HOMEWORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.** All homework assignments completed within Canvas will need to be turned in prior to 7:35am on the due date. If you are swept or late when an assignment is due, it is still due by 7:35am. If you turn it in a few minutes late or the next day, it will be considered late (hence, no credit).

## Classwork:

We will spend time on a daily basis working in small groups or individually on assignments. **THIS IS NOT FREE TIME.** When you are in this class you need to be working, if you are reminded repetitively about staying on task you will receive a

zero for the assignment you are supposed to be working on. If the class cannot stay on task, this portion of the class will be cut out and all assignments will be completed solely at home.

### **Test and Quizzes:**

Tests will always be announced at least 2 days prior. We will have both announced and pop quizzes throughout the year. The pop quizzes are to keep you on track with your work in this class. This is not a class that you can fall behind in and catch up easily. If you are absent the day of a pop quiz, the next pop quiz grade will count twice.

As honors students, prior knowledge is essential. Therefore, throughout the school year various concepts (elements, polyatomic ions, naming, etc.) are considered **Mastery Quizzes**. These quizzes include essential, foundation material that cover content we build upon in the course, therefore, it is imperative that the content is well understood. Passing of these mastery quizzes means a student must earn a score of 85% or higher. If mastery is not achieved the first time taking the quiz, (a score less than 85% is earned), students must come in to retake the quiz, knowing that the maximum score they can now earn (as they are having to utilize multiple attempts over the same content) is a 75%.

Students have the opportunity to study more and commit the mastery concepts (base content) to memory by taking a re-quiz before the end, when the teacher is available. If after this time frame, the student is unable to reach the score of 85% the student will receive a zero on the quiz.

If a zero is earned, it is the reflection of a student's effort. The mastery quizzes are memorization type, base level content that IF a student is actively engaged in their learning, pose no problem for a student to master. It is also important to remember that students have access to many resources in this class to assist them in their achievement of mastery. All mastery quizzes will be announced in advance.

### **Makeup Policy and Long Term Project Policy:**

- If you are absent for any reason it is your responsibility to come to me and get the work that you missed. **Failure to report for a make-up arrangement will result in a 0 for that assignment.**
- After an absence, a student has one school day for each day missed to make up work/tests, regardless of the number of days absent. If many days were missed, please schedule an appointment with me to formulate a plan for the completion of make-up work. Make-up work for extended absences (over 3 days) may be requested through the Counseling Office and picked up there.
- If a student has an excused absence on the day of a test, an alternative test will be given. To maintain test security and to hold all students accountable; all make-up tests (due to an excused absence) must be completed within ONE WEEK or a grade of zero will be entered.
- Any long-term projects assigned in class will be given one date that the assignment is due. All students must turn this project in on that date at the beginning of class whether the student is at school or absent. Get the assignment time stamped by the front desk if it is not given directly to the teacher.
- **Academic Assistance:** In addition to the Academic Prep times built into our schedule each week, additional assistance/tutoring is provided on a weekly basis both by MRHS and individually by instructors. Those dates and times will be posted in the classroom and/or on my website at the start of each week. I will demonstrate to the students how to find availability each week. I also encourage your son/daughter to write down my availability each week in their Mountain Ridge planner (provided by the school) so that you too are aware of my weekly availability.

### **Science Department Retake Policy:**

Twice a year (once per semester) an announced, unit test may be retaken to improve the score earned. (Same material but different, more challenging format) The two exam scores (original earned score and the retake score) will be averaged and that average will be placed into the grade-book for that exam. In order to take advantage of this policy, a student **MUST: 1)** be present and take the original exam, and **2)** declare their desire to re-test and get an after-school appointment scheduled within **ONE** week from the time the original, graded exam is handed back.

### **Laboratory:**

- Correct lab procedure will be explained before each lab and students must follow the lab safety rules reviewed at the start of the semester.
- Breakage policy: see attached paper.
- Horseplay will not be tolerated. Students will be asked to leave the lab and will not receive credit.
- NO water bottles will be allowed in lab.

**Additional Rules:** (in accordance with the handbook)

- No food, drinks, or candy are allowed in the classroom. Only CLEAR water bottles with CLEAR water will be allowed.
- **PARENTS ARE TO CALL THE SCHOOL DIRECTLY IF AN EMERGENCY EXISTS, DO NOT USE A CELL PHONE.**
- **ABSOLUTELY NO HATS IN THE CLASSROOM.** Hats will be confiscated if students wear them in class.

**Power Schools On-line Access:**

Grades and attendance may be accessed 24 hours a day online with your Power School access code. Access codes are available in the Counseling Office or Front Desk Monday – Friday 7:00 AM– 3:30 PM. You may check student progress regularly on the PowerSchool site using the same login for one or more students. For Mountain Ridge parents/guardians without home computer access, a computer with guest log-in capability is available in the Counseling Conference Room.

**Report Cards**

In an effort to conserve resources and harness the capacity of our electronic grade reporting program (PowerSchool) district schools will no longer print hard copies of report cards unless requested by individual parents. To request a hard copy of your student's report card, please contact the front office at 623-376-3000. To receive your PowerSchool login, please stop into the office with a valid photo ID.

**Technology usage:**

Students should come to school with their iPads charged and ready to use in each class every day. Within each classroom, there are three possible technology environments. Teachers will identify for students the environment expected during their class period. These environments are described below:

- **Red:** No device use allowed. Devices are to be off and put away. If a device is out and being used at this time, students may receive disciplinary consequences and/or zeroes if appropriate. This environment may be necessary for testing or non-electronic based assessments.
- **Black:** Limited device use allowed. Students may use devices in accordance with teacher instruction in a prescribed manner. Students may be asked to place devices face down on their desk until appropriate to use. Teachers may ask to see students' open apps and require that all apps are closed with the exception of a specific one or two. Games should not be open in this environment unless the teacher indicates a specific game may be used.
- **Green:** Open device use. Students may use their device independently to take notes, complete assignments, conduct research, communicate with the teacher, check grades, and other appropriate educational uses of the device. Students should not access inappropriate content or cause disruption in this environment.
- Devices may not be used to record or take photos of other people without their consent. Consequences for classroom disruptions and misuse of devices will follow a progressive discipline model, beginning with a phone call home and progressing to office referrals for repeated or more serious offenses. Students who have devices out during a Red environment or during testing, may lose credit on their test or quiz. See the Student Rights and Responsibilities consequence chart in the handbook for more specific descriptions of infractions and consequences.

**Calculator Policy:**

A scientific calculator will be used frequently in this chemistry course. If a student does not have a scientific calculator, he/she is welcome to use the class set of calculators; with the understanding they are responsible for any damages and/or the calculator must be returned at the end of the class period. **ONLY** the class set of calculators may be used on quizzes, tests and exams; no personal calculators. Cell phones may not be substituted for calculators during class work.