

Text: Living by Chemistry

Course Overview

Chemistry covers the basic principles of the makeup and transformation of substances. Emphasis is on the development of chemical concepts with the equations and calculations necessary for their understanding. Laboratory experiments are used in the development of the concepts and to illustrate proper techniques.

Learning Objectives

This course will cover topics including the periodic table, atomic structure, the dynamics of chemical reactions, solution chemistry, qualitative and quantitative behavior of gases, and acid/base chemistry. These topics will not be treated singularly, however, a heavy emphasis will be placed on how all of these topics are intertwined together.

Requirements/Expectations (see Science Dept. Philosophy on Back)

Students taking this course are expected be hardworking, motivated, organized, and possess the appropriate math skills. The ability to memorize and apply information is critical to surviving chemistry. Typically students who do not possess these qualities have not done as well as they would have hoped. All students are expected to bring a writing implement, scientific calculator (graphing calculators are prohibited), and a notebook to each class. Students will not be supplied any of these items if they are forgotten. Promptness is also required. Any student who is tardy to class will have a personal detention within 48 hours.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE USED IN CLASS
(The school electronic device policy will be followed in class at all times)

Of course, students are expected to be to class on time with their homework completed to the best of their ability (see homework policy on back). In addition, all work must be shown when doing homework or taking a test or quiz. This is to the student's benefit as partial credit will be awarded. Any answer that does not show the student's work will result in the loss of some credit for that problem. All work must be passed in as a hard copy, no electronic submissions will be accepted.

Students who are absent will be held accountable for the work they missed, in accordance with the student handbook. I will make my class notes available to students, and it is also a good idea to obtain the missed notes from a fellow student. A missed laboratory will need to be made within one week of the lab.

NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED

It is imperative that each student behave properly, respect each other, respect the instructor, and respect the room in which the class is taught. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated in any form, especially in the laboratory. Lab safety is of the utmost importance. Any misconduct during a laboratory will result in a zero for that lab assignment.

Tests, quizzes and labs vary by how many points they are worth (but are weighted fairly). Grades are calculated by calculating a percentage of points you have compared to how many you could have.

Extra Help

I will be available before or after school any day for extra help (except Friday). Preferably, I would appreciate the student making an appointment first. I am very aware how difficult this subject is and I am willing to provide support for any student who would like it. Unfortunately, there will be no opportunities for students to do extra credit assignments.

Bathroom Policy: Should you need to leave the classroom to use the bathroom, you will sign out on the chromebook at the back of the classroom and take a pass with you. Only one student will be allowed to leave the room at a time. **STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO GO TO THE BATHROOM BEFORE CLASS STARTS**, or when we are working individually. There are no restrictions on when you may use the restroom however, please keep in mind it is rude to disrupt the lesson and/or to leave your partner in the middle of a lab experiment. There are to be no pit-stops or detours and phones are not to be taken with you. Bathroom usage during tests and quizzes is strongly discouraged.

Department Philosophy

The Science department of Wachusett Regional High school strives for excellence in the science education of all its graduates. We recognize the fact that science is a human endeavor designed to achieve an increasingly comprehensive and reliable understanding of the human species and its environment. Scientific literacy is an important key to a functioning, technology-based society.

Science Department Homework Policy

"The WRHS Science Department believes that homework is necessary to help our students achieve at the high academic level necessary for college preparation. Schoolwork done outside of classtime provides training in study habits, skills and discipline; it reinforces and increases background knowledge and conceptual understanding, and it provides experiences in problem solving and self monitoring. In particular, it provides students with an opportunity for them to take personal responsibility for their own achievement."

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity is extremely important. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated on quizzes, homework, labs, tests, or other projects. Evidence of cheating will result in a grade of zero on the assignment for all parties involved. Lab partners must turn in their own work and it may not be the same as their partner or any other student.

While AI has been a fixture in modern life for many years, it has recently become imperative that the high school set expectations and parameters for its use. Generative AI, such as ChatGPT, is able to produce content (written, audio, visual) which bypasses the creative functions of its users.

Similar to the school's policy on plagiarism, students at WRHS are responsible for submitting their own work, displaying their own understanding, knowledge and creativity. Like with plagiarism, teachers will be monitoring the use of AI within their classroom and student work. It is the responsibility of the student to prove that AI was not used by showing the evolution of their work

through outlines, drafts, editing, proper citations, etc. If the student admits to using AI or cannot sufficiently defend the authenticity of their work, the consequence will be the same as plagiarism.