

Chemistry

2026-2027 School Year

Instructor: Paul Harris

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Office: RM 212

Office Hours: M & W 7:45am – 8:10 am or by appointment (email me)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Chemistry course at Great Hearts roots students in an historical understanding of the origin and development of its paradigms by deeply engaging students in the scientific process of creating and refining models. The infusion of elements from the ‘Great Conversation’ into a contemporary pedagogical method creates the ideal environment in which a sense of wonder and delight can develop and be nurtured within the student. The historical elements mentioned above are arranged around stories of discovery that dwell comfortably among the many threads which comprise the pursuit of Truth, Goodness, and Beauty in the Western tradition. The central narrative theme in this course is the investigation of the nature of matter and how it changes. Storylines follow historical developments in our understanding of atoms, molecules, and the forces that bond them together and break them apart.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Pencil or Pen
2. 3” binder
3. Colored pens/pencils (optional)
4. White board Markers

GRADING POLICY:

Percentage	Letter Grade
100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
60 or below	F

COURSE ASSIGNMENT MATRIX

Grade Categories	Percentage
Labs	25%
Homework	15%
Quizzes	15%
Participation	15%
Assessments	30%

Expectations: Student

- This course requires that each student participates in order to fully understand the information presented. Lack of participation will result in non-passing grade due to points lost in participation, in class activities and assignments
- Students are expected to act in a professional manner at all times. Failure to do so will result in a report being filed and dismissal from the class. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated.
- Follow any and all instructions provided.
- **Coming to class prepared**

Expectations: Parent

You are not responsible for completing your student's homework. Instead, I would ask that you:

- Ask them to explain what they are doing if they do not understand. Just asking for an explanation may spark a memory of what the next step is.
- Monitor for progress.
- Support perseverance.

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

- **Attendance:** Chemistry is a new concept for many; it will take some time to grasp the concepts. **Success will require good attendance, a LOT of effective studying and hard work.** Just showing up to class will not guarantee an adequate grade. If you are going to be absent, please check with other students in class or your teacher. **It is your responsibility to see what was covered in class and to make up any missed assignments**
- **Participation:**

It is expected that each student will participate in class discussions and any in-class group assignments. This is to ensure a complimentary learning environment.
If a student is absent, a parent's note or some proof of reason will be required to be eligible to regain the missed participation points. It is the student's responsibility to follow up on excused absences before the last day of the course.
See attached participation rubric
- **Late Policy:** All assignments are due on the dates indicated. Assignments completed after the indicated due dates will be subject to a deduction of the points available to the tune of 10% for each day being late. No assignment can be accepted for grading after midnight on the final day of class. Exceptions to this policy are at the discretion of the instructor.
- **Grading Scale:** The grading scale as identified in the course syllabus will apply to all graded work. The final percentage grade as reflected in the online Gradebook will be used to determine the final letter grade that will be earned at the completion of the course.
- **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the act of claiming credit for another's work, accomplishments, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgement of the source of the information by including in-text citations and references. Whether this happens deliberately or inadvertently, whenever plagiarism has occurred, you have committed a Code of Conduct violation. Every act of plagiarism, no matter the severity, must be reported to Arete Prep administration.

Plagiarism includes:

- Representing the ideas, expressions, or materials of another without due credit.
- Paraphrasing or condensing ideas from another person's work without proper citation and referencing.
- Failing to document direct quotations without proper citation and referencing.

Depending upon the amount, severity, and frequency of the plagiarism that is committed, students may receive in-class penalties that range from coaching (for a very minor omission) to zero credit for a specific assignment. In addition, Arete Preparatory Academy penalties may also occur, including suspension or even expulsion from the school

A good rule to follow is: Never borrow another student's work, and never allow another student to borrow your work!

- **Academic dishonesty:** There is a zero-tolerance policy with regard to cheating in my classroom. Any student who is caught cheating will receive a zero for the assignment involved. If another student is involved in helping that student cheat, he or she will also receive a zero on the assignment in question and be subject to School penalties.
- **Code of Conduct:** In accordance with Arete Preparatory Academy policies as stated in the Student Handbook, it is my expectation that all communications that take place in our classroom will be presented in a professional manner, using appropriate language and a collaborative tone, and demonstrating respect for the viewpoints and values of all class members even if they do not coincide with your own viewpoints and values. Please follow the simple motto of **RESPECT, RESPECT, RESPECT!**
 - ☐ Talking or disrupting class during lectures will not be tolerated. Student input into discussions is encouraged but should be done by raising a hand and being called upon.
 - ☐ **Please do not have cell phones, iPhones, iPods, mp3 players, radios, mini TV's, etc. out during class. It is expected that if you come to class, then you are there to learn! ☺**
 - ☐ Sleeping in class will not be permitted!
 - ☐ Vulgar language and obscene gestures have no place in the classroom and will not be tolerated!

Participation rubric

	Excellent (4)	Satisfactory (3)	Fair (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Participation in classroom discussion	The student actively participates in class by asking questions and contributing to classroom discussions more than once.	The student actively participates in class by asking questions and contributing to classroom discussions at least once.	The student actively participates in class by asking questions and occasionally contributing to classroom discussion.	The student is not actively engaged in class and does not ask questions or contribute to classroom discussion.
Respect for Peers	The student listens when others are speaking in both small group and whole group settings. The student encourages his/her peers to be respectful of others.	The student listens when others are speaking in both small group and whole group settings.	The student listens when others are speaking most of the time but needs occasional prompting.	The student does not listen when others are speaking, interrupts frequently, or makes negative comments about peers' ideas.
Behavior	The student is well behaved and almost never displays disruptive behavior.	The student is well behaved and sometimes displays disruptive or off-task behavior.	The student is mostly well behaved, sometimes displays disruptive or off-task behavior that requires redirection.	The student is not well behaved and frequently displays disruptive or off-task behavior that requires redirection or intervention.

Chemistry 26/27 Syllabus Acknowledgement Form

By signing below, you acknowledge that you have read the syllabus. If you have questions or concerns, please email.

Student Name Printed

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name Printed

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Home Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____