

January 6, 2009

## AR Chemistry: Spring 2009

Welcome to Spring Semester 2009. The Fall Semester was very rewarding on many levels. It was fascinating to teach first and second year students the topics covered in my former junior and senior level courses. I can assure all that the depth of coverage was equal in both cases.

The Fall Semester of Chemistry covered descriptive chemistry. This Spring semester, we will be covering the mathematical sections of a high school chemistry course. Each student's success will be evaluated based on his or her current math placement (eg. students in Algebra I will be given more leniency in their calculations compared to students enrolled in Calculus). Rest assured, the math skills required for college preparatory chemistry can be mastered by the average Algebra I student.

Organizational methods and skills will be taught and evaluated throughout the course. Students will need to be very organized to keep up with the pace and variety of topics covered in the upcoming semester. Therefore, students will be expected to bring to class each day:

### Required Daily Materials

#### Calculator

Students may not use cell phone calculators. They must have their own calculator for each class. A simple "add, subtract, multiply, divide" calculator will be sufficient. A better choice is a \$8-\$12 "scientific" calculator. Student may use a graphing calculator but one is not necessary for the course.

#### 3-Ring Binder

Students will be required to keep their notes, handouts, homework assignments, and laboratory activities separated and organized. A 3-ring binder with separators will meet this requirement. However, some students have been able to accomplish these separations within a notebook (with lots of creativity). Regardless of how a student meets these requirements, their organizational system will be evaluated with "pop inspections" throughout the semester.

### Grade Updates

I have a new, friendlier, online method for students and parents to check current grades in this course. Grades can be found with a password protected link within the course website: [www.archemistry.net](http://www.archemistry.net). Although not fully installed, updates can be emailed to students and parents. If you would like to receive regular updates through email, please have your student give me your email address

As always, feel free to contact me at home, school, or through email if you have any questions or concerns.

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