**Honors Chemistry Syllabus**

**Mira Costa High School**

**Contact Information:**

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**Course Description**

This Honors Chemistry course is designed to be a first year general chemistry course for students with exceptional math and science skills. The course will prepare students to take AP Chemistry as a 2nd year chemistry course with special emphasis on learning objectives that combine content with inquiry and reasoning skills.

**Textbook:** Zumdahl, DeCoste. *Introductory Chemistry: A Foundation*. 6th edition, 2007. Houghton Mifflin

**Required Materials:**

* Textbook
* Scientific Calculator
* Bound Composition Notebook
* 2 pocket Chemistry portfolio (for classwork and homework)

**Expectations:**

* You will come to class prepared. Each day you will bring lined paper, your portfolio, a writing utensil, and a scientific calculator. Being prepared also means coming to class with the mentality that you will accomplish goals set for that day.
* You must arrive on time. Tardies will be kept. If you are not in the room when the bell rings, you will be considered tardy.
* Listen and follow instructions the first time they are given.

**Classroom Rules:**

* **Respect** your teachers and your classmates. Any verbal or physical misconduct will not be tolerated.
* No food is permitted. You may drink **WATER ONLY**. Please do your best to keep the room neat and clean.
* No cellular phones, portable music players, or make-up is allowed in class.
* I will dismiss class each day, **NOT** the bell.

**Grading:**

* Tests and Quizzes = 30%
* Portfolio = 25%
* Laboratory Reports = 25%
* Final = 20%
* A = 90% - 100%
* B = 80% - 89%
* C = 70% - 79%
* D = 60% - 69%
* F = below 59%
* Turn in all work when it is due. I will **not** accept late work.
* Students are responsible for obtaining and handing in work you miss. Students will be allowed one day per day of excused absence to make up what they have missed. Check the website daily for missed work.
* Extra credit assignments may be offered occasionally, but don’t count on it.

\*\*\* Grading in Mrs. Nielsen’s class is largely based on your effort. The previously explained point system will be used as a guideline, but will not be the only factor in determining your grade. If you are willing to put your time and effort into this course, you **will** receive a rewarding grade.

**Tests and Quizzes:**

No make up tests or quizzes will be offered. If a student is absent on the day of an assessment they will receive a score of 0. At the end of the semester, the lowest quiz or test score will be exempted from the students’ grade. The 0 grade due to an absence will be dropped at this time. If a student does not miss any assessments, they can drop the score of their choice that will most benefit their grade. If a student misses more than one quiz or test then one 0 score will be dropped and the other 0 grades will be replaced with the semester final exam grade. If a student knows of their absence in advance, they can make special arrangements with the teacher to take the exam prior their absence.

**Laboratory Reports**

Students are required to keep a laboratory notebook as a record of their laboratory experiences. Lab reports are detailed accounts of what occurs in the laboratory and are an extremely important part of the course. Students must follow the lab report format provided and label all sections very clearly. For purposes of safety and time management, it is important that students don’t procrastinate when doing pre-lab and post-lab work. Late labs will be credited with 50% of the earned score. Absent students are responsible for obtaining lab data from another student and completing the lab report on time.

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As an acknowledgment of reading and understanding the course expectations a signature is requested. If at any time you wish to contact the instructor concerning the class or your student’s progress please contact me at your convenience.

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_