



Honors Chemistry Syllabus

Dr. Katz 2008 - 2009



My Contact Info

Dr. Stephanie Katz, Office 3037, Classroom 3038. That's where you'll find me Monday through Friday from 7:45am - 3:30pm and sometimes later than that if I'm not in a meeting. My detailed schedule is at the bottom of this Syllabus. If I'm not at school and you need to contact me, feel free to call my cell phone as long as it is between the hours of 7:15am and 9:30pm, Monday through **Saturday**. My cell phone number is 954-270-8864. Please know that if I don't answer, you should leave me a message and I will return your call as soon as I can. If you need an immediate answer, sometimes you might find it on the class webpage: www.chemlecture.com/doc - that's where you'll find general links for all my classes, and a specific link for your class. On your class page you will find your **Week-at-a-Glance calendar (WAG)**, Contents, Links, and other items much like other teachers have on Edline. The WAG page changes, often daily, because our class agenda changes to best serve your learning needs. If you find any links not working, please email me (SKatz@greenhillsschool.org) and let me know! Of course, if your question can wait until the morning, please respect my personal life and resist the urge to call me. Thanks! ☺ Also know that this is only the second time I have ever made a webpage, so forgive any broken links or weird spacing. You will have the best view on Internet Explorer, but I do check the view on FireFox as well.

My Education Philosophy

This classroom is a place where you can learn and have fun at the same time. It is extremely important to keep a positive attitude during the moments when you feel frustrated. Chemistry is a challenging subject, but if you practice diligent study habits you will find it much easier. Patience and a sense of humor are always helpful. If you are having trouble with concepts, make sure you utilize the appropriate resources effectively. I am only ONE of your available resources! It is extremely important for you to recognize your responsibility in the learning process. You will be the designer of your experience in this course. If you decide to have a full, successful chemistry experience, that is exactly the course you will experience; conversely, if you decide that the rigor of this class is overwhelming and that you cannot be successful, you will certainly find that to be the case instead. Our classroom will be a team effort, as both teaching and learning will be vital components. Your job is to follow the prescribed curriculum at the fastest pace possible, take notes as directed, complete all assigned work in a timely fashion, and make sure you ask questions of me when you have exhausted all other resources (I'm available for extra help almost every day if you need me!). Additionally, you should feel compelled to work to the best of your ability at all times if you wish to get the most out of this class.

My Class Rules

All students are expected to follow Greenhills School's (GH) Rules and Regulations, especially the Honor Code. More specifically, you are expected to: come to class on time in appropriate dress attire and be prepared to learn when the bell rings; refrain from eating or drinking in class, *especially* refrain from chewing gum; clean up your work area before you leave class, even if the mess was not made by you; never leave the classroom without permission or without the hall pass; keep your comments respectful and appropriate and make sure you don't speak out of turn; remain in your seat quietly unless it is appropriate to do otherwise; and always inform me if you have a problem, question or concern, but please make sure you speak to me in a respectful manner.

My Course Supply List

Textbook Materials	Holt, Modern Chemistry, 2006 textbook; ISBN: 0030735467	
Required Materials	1. One 2" 3-ring binder with loose-leaf notebook paper (or two 1" binders)	3. Scientific calculator (must do exponents)
	2. Blue or black pens and pencils	4. Lab goggles (may purchase from GH)
		5. Bound Composition book
Optional Materials (strongly suggested)	• Pocket folders (for great organization)	• Highlighter pens (for taking great notes)
	• Colored pens (for taking great notes)	

My General Expectations

I believe that students do not have to excel in chemistry to love the subject. Conversely, I believe students can excel in chemistry even if they don't love the subject. After 20 years of teaching, I have come to the conclusion that success in chemistry class is directly proportional to a student's work ethic. Students with a strong, sustained work ethic tend to succeed in my class, and students with poor or inconsistent work habits usually do not achieve their goals. I spend time in the beginning of the year

developing your knowledge of success skills and giving you “tools” to integrate these skills. You will learn about your dominant learning style and what study methods best fit your strengths. I will also give you ample resources for remediation when you find that a “first try” doesn’t bring immediate return on your efforts. My expectation is that you take advantage of these opportunities and lessons, since they will help you become more scholarly in all subjects. Since honors chemistry is an elective course, you are enrolled in my class on your own volition. I expect that your work ethic and behavior will reflect pride in that decision.

Learning is not an individual endeavor. Therefore, class cooperation is an essential component of the learning environment. Each marking period, you will be assessed on your class cooperation by my subjective evaluation of your ability to “cooperate” by (1) coming to class prepared and being ready when the bell rings, (2) *positively* contributing to the day’s lesson, and (3) showing an effort to follow rules. In general, you should:

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| (a) come prepared and be ready to learn | (d) ask “on topic” questions |
| (b) remain actively engaged | (e) work cooperatively |
| (c) always follow directions | (f) clean up your work area |

In general, you should avoid the following: Playing calculator games during class, unapproved cell phone or computer use during class; looking at and or sharing photos during class; writing long letters (short notes to your neighbor are okay); gum, mints, and chewing of any kind (yes, that means no chewing paper or pen caps!); being tardy to class without a pass; being out of your seat (unless instructed to do so); using the hall pass to visit unapproved locations; talking at inappropriate times; drawing on the desk or other forms of disrespect to the classroom; coming to class unprepared (e.g. no pencil for tests), sleeping in class or placing your head on the desk during class; acting inappropriately (singing, insulting people, verbal outbursts, etc); being disrespectful to classmates in any way; being disrespectful to me in any way; making annoying noises of any kind (e.g. pen clicking and tapping); being a distraction of any kind (loudly shuffling papers during lecture); complaining inappropriately (you may always discuss your concerns in an appropriate fashion...in fact, you are encouraged to do so); being out of dress code in any way; copying other student’s homework from this or any class; working on homework from other classes without permission; academic dishonesty of any kind, etc. (Disclaimer – this list was built over 10 years at previous schools).

Your Assignments

The honors chemistry course has been designed to reflect current methods in science education. We will be discussing your assignments in great detail at a later time. Suffice it to say, you will have some assignments that will seem very familiar such as HW, quizzes, tests, labs, and the like. However, many of your assignments will be quite unusual for science classes, such as journal reflections and alternative assessments. Some assignments will be un-graded assignments; they will be assessed with constructive criticism so you can improve your work, but they will not count toward your grade. All points awarded will be cumulative over the marking period. Each marking period will count as one half of your semester grade. Your grades will be posted online as often as possible. However, if you or your parents would like a grade report at any time, please email me and let me know.

How to Submit Assignments

1. All handwritten assignments should be submitted in person into my INBOX which resides on the desk in the entry-way of the classroom. No assignment should EVER be removed from my INBOX for any reason. If you need an assignment that you previously submitted, you should ask me to retrieve the assignment for you. This policy protects everyone's assignments. Please make sure you submit your assignment into your class period's INBOX, i.e. if you are in period A, place your assignment in the INBOX marked period A. Late assignments should be placed in the top tray regardless of what period you are in.
2. PRIOR APPROVAL IS REQUIRED (from me and only me) if you are going to submit an assignment via email. You may **only** email an assignment that has been okayed by me in advance. Please do NOT assume just because you sent it that I received it. Email is NOT a reliable method of submitting assignments. If you want to be certain an emailed assignment has been received by me, request a receipt email or ask me in person. If I don't receive it, it is considered not submitted.
3. Assignments should be submitted with your full name, class period, and date (e.g. Johnny Bagadonuts, Per D, 8/30/08) PRINTED at the top RIGHT corner of your paper UNLESS if there is a designated space for this information elsewhere. Assignments without a name will not likely be considered on time; if I can't identify the assignment by process of elimination or handwriting, I will hang it on the bulletin board for someone to claim.
4. Any assignment that is handwritten should be completed in BLUE or BLACK ink or PENCIL only. Other color pens should NEVER be used.

- Your work must be legible or it will not receive a grade. You are permitted to type assignments if you feel that your handwriting is illegible.
- Late assignments may be subject to a 50% grade penalty, including illegible assignments and assignments submitted without a name. Excused absences represent an exception to this rule. Additional exceptions are allowable but will be discussed on a case by case basis. Please always feel free to discuss with me your reasons for submitting a late assignment, but always do so in a respectful matter. Also know that while I will ALWAYS accept late work, I will be the judge and jury about what late points will be deducted. If you feel that you will be unable to submit an assignment on time, it is best if you discuss it with me BEFORE the due date!
- Missed work, labs, and tests must be made up in accordance with GH policy. Please note...it is your responsibility to obtain work missed due to absence, regardless of whether it is an excused or unexcused absence! It is not my job to remind you that you missed work while you were absent; please consult your classmates, the in-class bulletin board, and my webpage, or ask me for the assignment if you cannot obtain it from any of these sources. Again, this is YOUR job – you know you missed work if you missed class.
- If you are absent on the day that an assignment is due (or a test is taken), you will be expected to submit the assignment (or take the test) at the beginning of class the next time you attend school. If you sign out of school on the day that an assignment is due, you should submit the assignment BEFORE you leave, whether or not you attend my class that day. You may submit the assignment to the Administrative Assistant at the office where you sign out; please request that she email me so I am aware that you submitted your assignment.

How I determine your grade

Your marking period grades will be determined as follows: $(\text{total points earned} \div \text{total points possible}) \times 100\% = \text{your grade}$. The grade will be determined using HW, CW, quizzes, tests, labs, journals, alternative assessments (to be discussed elsewhere), and class participation. Cumulative exams will be given in accordance with GH policy. This will most likely be at the end of the second and fourth marking periods. Additional exams may be given but will always be pre-announced. Your overall grade will be a weighted average of two semesters, the first being weighted as 40% of your grade.

Other important information

- Staying informed - The WAG calendar on my webpage is updated on a regular basis to keep pace with the flow of the class. Students are expected to access the WAG calendar EVERY DAY to stay abreast of changes and daily classroom expectations and assignments. If you print out the WAG calendar over the weekend, it will likely look very different by Tuesday. Please don't forget to check the WAG calendar each day to monitor important changes. Our class agenda will change to best serve your learning needs. If you or your parents have questions, please contact me via email. My school voice mail extension is TBD. Email and cell phone are the best ways to reach me! I will check email up until 8pm and then again on the following day; I will return email within one day under most circumstances. If I can't take your call right away, I will likely call you back within 24 hours.

“Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again while expecting a different outcome.”

Albert Einstein

of being asked to regurgitate content and memorized information. This type of assessment reaches you on a different level than the standard pen and pencil test does. It asks you to think, reflect, wonder, question, consider, etc the phenomena that we study. Most often we will be “doing science” during which you will hopefully be learning science. These thinking skills are important to develop while you are becoming a scientist or any type of scholar for that matter, and this year, we are going to focus quite a bit on these scholarly skills. In fact, you will be given as much credit for these process skills

as you will for learning chemistry content. Mastering thinking skills will get you farther in your academic career than balancing chemical equations! This type of course will be a significant paradigm shift for many of you; it will take a bit of getting used to and the adjustment may be uncomfortable at first. Please be patient and keep your mind open to this change. I assure you that you will learn chemistry AND you will learn a lot about yourself as a student if you trust this process and complete the work as described. Try and have fun with it and be honest with the challenge. It will serve you well.

- Office Hours - This year my official office hours are by appointment because I live 45 min away from school. If I know a student is coming in to see me, I will make sure I am available. In my previous school I was known to hang around well after 6pm, but I think I'll want to head home before dark to be safe. I will definitely be in my classroom during lunch and in my

office during my planning periods, F & G. I'm likely to be hanging around between 3:00pm and 3:30pm to help students finish their assignments. If you need to schedule an appointment or a help session with me, please just ask!!! Also, please take advantage of advisory time and don't forget that your classmates are a great resource as well. If you have attempted to get extra help from the above resources but you find that none of these are satisfactory, you could also try a private tutor. Please let me know if you are struggling to find a tutor.

- Safety in the chemistry lab** – We will be performing many experiments in this class that pose potential safety risks. The risks will be significantly minimized by using common sense precautions and following the appropriate safety rules. You will be expected to read, learn, and sign a two-page safety contract (found on my webpage) before you perform any experiments in my class. Your signature on this safety contract is a promise to me and your classmates that you will take all precautions necessary to keep the lab environment hazard-free. Your parents are also expected to sign the safety contract because it is important that they are aware of the potential risks you may encounter and that you are being tasked with the responsibility of following these safety rules. Please have your parents read and sign both pages after you have read and signed both pages of the contract. Once you and your parents have both read and signed it, please promptly return it to me.
- Safety in the classroom** – In addition to lab safety, there are general safety guidelines that you should follow even when we are not doing experiments. Many of these are “common sense,” but to err on the side of caution, this year I am writing it down and having you and your parents signing a document that tells me you are aware of these protocols. You should print a copy of this document from my website. Please read and sign this document, and have your parents read and sign it to indicate that you have read it and that you understand what I expect of you. Once the document is signed, please return it to me as soon as possible.
- Student Profile** – on my website there is a document called student profile. This is a form to print, fill out and sign. Once you have filled it out and signed the form, please have your parents sign the form and submit the form to me. This form allows me to learn a bit about you and also helps me contact your parents if necessary.
- Course Content and Course Objectives** – Please go to my website www.chemlecture.com/doc for a full description of course objectives and a course outline.

Where can you find Dr. Katz?					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School at least by 7:45	In my classroom 3038; if the door is open, come on in! ☺	In my classroom 3038; if the door is open, come on in! ☺	In my classroom 3038; if the door is open, come on in! ☺	In my classroom 3038; if the door is open, come on in! ☺	In my classroom 3038; if the door is open, come on in! ☺
Lunch	3037 or 3038	Dining Hall for Extra Help	10th/11th class meeting	3037 or 3038	Dining Hall for Extra Help
Periods F and G	In my office, room 3037. Please knock! ☺	In my office, room 3037. Please knock! ☺	In my office, room 3037. Please knock! ☺	In my office, room 3037. Please knock! ☺	In my office, room 3037. Please knock! ☺
After School until 3:30 most days	In my classroom 3038; if the door is open, come on in! ☺	3:15 mtg or in my classrm 3038; stop by to see if I'm in.	In my classroom 3038; if the door is open, come on in! ☺	3:15 meeting - I'm not usually available ☺	In my classroom 3038; if the door is open, come on in! ☺

LOOKING FORWARD TO A GREAT YEAR TOGETHER! ♥ Doc