

Chemistry - SY '24-'25

Teacher - Carlos A. De la Lama Garza

Main Building - Rm. 3107

E-Mail: cde2@saisd.net

(210) 228-1210 (ext. 32277)

Teacher Greeeing

Welcome to a new school year at Burbank High School! I will have the pleasure of teaching you about the world of chemistry and science as a whole. Throughout the year, I will make sure to provide you with opportunities to learn about general chemistry with appropriate and safe experiments. My goal is to ensure that every student has an opportunity to learn about the physical world around them through the eyes of a chemist. It is my job to ensure that activities are appropriate and approachable to all students, and it is the student's job to participate in these activities and assessments.

Course Overview

Unlike in Biology, Chemistry will focus on the non living aspect of reality. Considered a physical science, students will explore the composition of matter and the changes it can undergo and how these changes shape the reality in which we live in. By the end of the school year, students will be familiarized with the concept of the atom, chemical changes and energy among other chemistry concepts.

Curriculum Breakdown

The course will be broken down into 4 main units, each with a different thematic that ties into IB curriculum and provides context that is more tangible for understanding. The 4 units will break down as follows:

1st 2 Weeks of School Unit 0 - Alchemy Duration: 1 week Content: Scientific Processes and Units of Measurement Unit 1 - Earth Duration: 5 weeks Content: Atomic Theory (Dalton, Thomson and Rutherford). The Periodic Table, and Chemical Equations	1st Marking Period (1st 9 Weeks)
Unit 2 - Fire Duration: 9 weeks Content: Atomic Theory (Borh and Heisenberg). Periodic Trends, Combustion Reactions and Chemical Bonding.	2nd Marking Period (2nd 9 Weeks)
Unit 3 - Water Duration: 9 weeks Content: Polarity. Acids and Bases. Crystalization. Specific Heat. Synthesis, Single Replacement and Double Replacement Reactions.	3rd Marking Period (3rd 9 Weeks)
Unit 4 - Air Duration: 9 weeks (estimate) Content: Kinetic Molecular Theory, Ideal Gasses and Nuclear Chemistry and Radiation.	4th Marking Period (4th 9 Weeks)

Classroom Rules

Students are expected to abide by the school rules as outlined in the Bulldog Way 24-25 Presentation. Additionally, there are more rules that are to be followed in my classroom. The rules are:

- No food allowed in the classroom.
 - (If you have food, you must keep it away in your backpack, or it will be confiscated until the end of class. NO EXCEPTIONS)
- No foul language allowed.
 - (You receive 1 warning. A second offense will result in a student teacher meeting. More offenses will result in a parent-teacher-student conference.)
- No sleeping in class.
 - (You receive 1 warning. A second offense will result in a student teacher meeting. More offenses will result in a parent-teacher-student conference.)
- No roughhousing.
 - (This is for your safety in the lab room. Examples include but are not limited to; throwing things, screaming, pushing, shoving, pulling on others, jumping on desks or others offences.)
- No phones, wireless headphones (AirPods), or Smart Watches.
 - (All phones are to be turned in to the teacher at the beginning of class. Phones will be locked up and returned the last 5 minutes of class. Other devices such as wireless headphones and smart watches must be put away.)
 - If wireless headphones and smart watches are not put away, students will be asked to turn them in with their phones INDEFINITELY.
 - Dummy phones (fake phones) will be confiscated until the end of the school day. If there is a second offense, student will receive an admin referral and dummy phone will be returned to the student's parent ONLY.
 - Refusing to turn in a phone at the beginning of class will result in an Admin Referral, and a Parent Phone Conference.
- No physical display of affection allowed.
 - Students will receive one warning. Upon a second offense, a parent phone conference will be held.
- Follow the respect agreement.
 - Students will create a respect agreement with the teacher and abide by what students and teacher have identified as being respectful. The respect agreement is a living document that can be edited.
- No profanity and sexual harassment.
 - There will be a NO TOLERANCE policy towards sexually driven jokes, offenses, comments or other derogatory language used during class. This also applies to physical acts. Students must keep their hands to themselves. Admin referral upon first offense.

Materials

For the most part, materials will be provided for students, but there are a few things you should always have with you when you come to class:

- Pencils
- Pens (black or blue, and NOT ANY OTHER COLOR)
- A pocket folder. (Prongs are not required)
- FOR LAB: Be sure to have a pair of closed toed shoes for lab days.
- FOR LAB: Be sure to have hair ties for long hair.
- FOR LAB: Be sure to have long pants without holes for lab days.

Grading

Each marking period will consist of 15 grades. Assignments will count towards 60% of the marking period grade. Assessments will count towards 40% of the marking period grade.

- **Grading the Semester:** Semester Grades are calculated by taking 45% of each marking period grade and 10% from the semester exam grade.
 - Example:
 - Marking Period 1 Grade: 80.
 - Marking Period 2 Grade: 90.
 - Semester 1 Exam Grade: 90.
 - Semester Grade = $[(80 \times 0.45) + (90 \times 0.45) + 90 \times 0.10] = 86$.
- **Grading the School Year:** The End of Year Grade is calculated by taking the average of the 2 semester grades.
 - Example:
 - Semester 1 Grade: 86
 - Semester 2 Grade: 94
 - Year Grade: $(86 + 94) \div 2 = 90$
- **Assigning Grades:** Students will be graded in tiers of success. The tier of success will be determined by both a rubric that outlines how many points a student will receive based on performance of skills and demonstration of knowledge. Assignment points will determine a letter grade to the student, and the letter grade will have a set percentile score that will be reflected on FrontLine.

Students can earn the following letter grades for both assignments and assessments:

% Score (as dictated by rubric)	Letter Grade Score	Frontline Grade
96-100%	S	100
90-95%	A	95
80-89%	B	85
70-79%	C	75
50-69%	D	70
0-49%	F	50

- **Missing and Late Assignments:** Should a student miss an assignment it is their responsibility to ensure that assignment is turned in before the end of the marking period (9 weeks). Assignments that are missing by the end of the marking period will be given an F letter grade.
- **Tutoring Hours:** Students are welcome to come to tutoring hours after school. If a student has at least 2 F's in the gradebook, they will be required to attend tutoring hours after school. Tutoring hours begin in September during the following times:

Tutoring Hours Thursdays 4:45 PM - 6:00 PM

- **Hall/Restroom Passes:** Students will have a restroom log where they will sign out and in of the classroom when going to out to the hall.
 - Students who take longer than 10 minutes will have a teacher student conference as a warning for taking too long. A second offense will result in a call home and loss of hall pass privileges for 3 weeks.

I, _____, the student, have read and understand the syllabus conditions that have been stated and understand that the syllabus outlines the rules and policies that must be carried out to have a safe and engaging class. I will do my best to abide by these rules, and to advocate for myself should issues arise that defy the syllabus.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

I, _____, the parent, recognize that classroom rules have been set in place for our students to have a fun and safe learning environment. I understand that I can reach out to the teacher through the information provided on the syllabus should I have any questions or concerns. Lastly, I understand that the syllabus is an outline and may be edited to accommodate unforeseen circumstances or situations that may affect our students. Should I have any questions, comments or concerns I will reach out to the teacher to come to a resolution.

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Find the digital syllabus here: