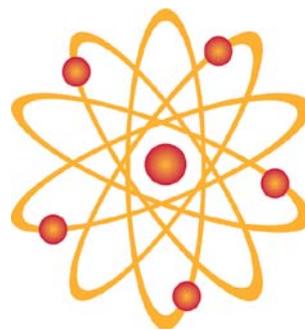


Chemistry I and Chemistry I Pre-AP

Lanier High School Course Overview 2011-2012



Instructor Contact Information:

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I. Course Description:

Chemistry I is an exploration of what things are made of (matter) and how the physical world works (reactions). There is quite a bit of fascinating content in this course, and we do lab explorations to interact with the content almost every class period. Topics covered include: the study of the measurement of matter and energy, atomic structure, chemical formulas, equations, bonding, solution chemistry, kinetic theory, matter and gas laws. *Students in Chemistry I must be willing to work daily on this course.*

II. Conference Hours and Tutoring:

- Parents with concerns about their students' performance should feel free to call his or her teacher before school or email anytime.
- All of the Chemistry teachers work together as a team, so a student is allowed and encouraged to go to any chemistry teacher for tutoring. See the chart below for times. *Note: if no-one shows up for afternoon tutoring by 4:45, the teacher might not stay.*

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8-9am	Provinzino - 51	Hamed - 135	Jones - 50	Jones - 50	Jones - 50 Lutz - 52
4:20-5:20pm	Pearlman - 134	Provinzino - 51	Hamed - 135	Lutz - 52	Pearlman - 134

III. Materials: (needed daily starting Friday, August 26th)

- Composition Notebook (preferred) or Spiral
- 3-ring binder (1" or greater)
- 13 dividers (two sets of 8-tabs works, or any creative combination adding up to 13 is welcomed)
- 2 pens and 2 pencils (*every day*)

IV. Textbook: *Addison Wesley Chemistry* is the official textbook for this course; however, most of the materials for this course will be provided to you in handouts original to Lanier. We expect you to keep track of all class materials.

V. Study Habits: The material in this course must be studied and learned daily as it is presented because the units build upon one another. The actual amount of time spent will depend upon each student's background. *If a student does not understand a concept, he or she should make contact with any of the Chemistry teachers within two to three days.* Concepts in this class build on each other, so please don't let yourself get more than a day or two behind. It is much easier to get help early than to wait until the last minute. You will have either homework or material to study every night.

VI. Grading policy:

Tests - 40%
Daily Grades - 30%
Labs - 30%

- Topic Tests and Unit Tests:** This class is divided into twelve units. Each unit is broken down into a few topics (also known as TEKS). The "test grades" in this class will actually be broken down by topic, so that each student will know how well he or she is doing on that topic. There will be a unit test (written by Austin ISD) for every unit. The unit test may include information from several topics and will be used to gauge the students

understanding of the essential questions for the unit. Most units build on the information in the previous unit, so don't be surprised if a topic comes back to haunt you! In addition to using questions from the unit tests to determine your topic grade, the Chemistry teachers might use questions on a quiz or lab quiz to determine how you are doing on a topic.

- b. Quizzes:** A quiz can be given at any time – with or without warning. On some quizzes you will be allowed to use your homework or notes, on others you won't. (Note: Don't ask me to use homework or notes on a quiz - that might make me think you don't know what you're doing, which will be unpleasant for both of us.) Sometimes the quiz questions might be used as part of your grade for that topic (TEK).
- c. Re-takes:** You are always encouraged to improve your knowledge of each topic even after a unit is over.* You can earn the right to **re-test** over any topic to get a better grade by doing supplemental work that any Chemistry teacher can assign to you during tutoring hours. *Note: please do this as soon as possible, because your teacher can only change your grade on a topic test until the end of a six weeks.
- d. Labs:** Chemistry is a very lab-oriented science. Most, but not all, labs activities will require that students have completed a pre-lab assignment. Because group work is often involved in the lab, occasionally the lab quizzes or lab results will be graded as an average of the whole group's performance. Students are expected to make sure that everyone in their group understands and can explain the material covered in the lab, and lab results. A student may be given an alternate assignment (in place of the lab) at any time, for any reason, at the teacher's sole discretion.
- e. Late work:** To be successful, all assignments should be completed and turned in before that unit test. The AISD late policy is that the maximum grade for anything turned in late is a 70. Assignments will no longer be accepted after 9am three school days before the end of any grading period (progress report dates or six-week cycles). Your House may have additional requirements.
**Please try to turn in late work during tutoring hours so we can get grades changed quickly.*
- f. Missing a lab:** Try to never to miss a lab. Students are required to write a paper or do an alternate assignment on the lab topic in order to make it up. At least one lab grade will be dropped each six-weeks to account for an occasional excused absence, but the student is still responsible for the material on the test.
- g. Extra credit:** I will make extra credit available to the class regularly. Please do any make up work before doing extra credit (make up work is always worth more!).
- h. Tardiness:** You are expected to be in your seat working on the warm up when the bell rings. Any assignment you miss turning in because of being tardy will be counted late: no exceptions. It is your responsibility to make up any work you missed due to being tardy on your own time.
- i. Hall passes** – Try not to leave, because you'll miss something important. Go to the restroom before class, and try to bring your own personal bottle of water, so that you don't have to leave. *Only one student is allowed out of the classroom at a time.*

VII. Classroom Resources

- **Calculators** - The Chemistry Team kindly lets you borrow one of *our* calculators to use for class work. You are only to use this calculator for academic work that has been assigned during chemistry class. You may also come in to use the calculators during tutoring hours. At the end of each class period, your calculator must be neatly returned to its designated spot. If you abuse the calculators (for example, by playing games during class) you will be expected to provide your own calculator for the rest of the semester.
- **Computers** – We will use computers often in Chemistry. Students are expected to only use computers for the academic purpose that they are intended for that day. Students are expected to comply with AISD's "Acceptable Use" Policy for technology, which is provided in the AISD Student Handbook.

VIII. Safety in the Laboratory – A separate document provides the safety rules for the Chemistry lab. Any student who does not comply with these rules may be subject to alternate placement and/or assignments.

Student and Parent Syllabus Contract
Chemistry I / Chemistry I Pre-AP

For the student:

I have read the Chemistry Course Syllabus and understand what is expected of me as a student enrolled in this course. I agree that the policies listed in this syllabus are fair, and will do my best to comply with them. I recognize that my Chemistry teacher has a responsibility to make this classroom a safe learning environment, and that she is given a right and a duty by the state of Texas to remove me from the classroom environment at her discretion at any point that I create a safety hazard or interfere with the learning environment. I fully recognize the maturity and dedication required of me for this course, and I will try to do my very best.

Printed Name: _____ Grade Level: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Best phone # to reach you: _____

Email address: _____

Comments to teacher:

For the Parent:

I, the parent (or guardian), have reviewed the enclosed course overview with my daughter/ son, and agree that all policies listed in this syllabus seem fair, and I will do what I can to support my student in being successful in this course. I recognize that my child's teacher has a responsibility to make this classroom a safe learning environment, and that he or she is given a right and a duty by the state of Texas to remove my student from the classroom environment at her discretion at any point that my student creates a safety hazard or a disruption.

Printed Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Best phone # to reach you: _____

Email address: _____

Do you prefer to be communicated with in English or another language? _____

Comments to teacher:

Notice to Parents/ Guardians: Recording and Image Release for Professional Development Unit

The chemistry teachers at Lanier High School are part of an ongoing research project studying ways to improve student performance on standardized tests. We have chosen this project because we want our students to have the best possible chances they can at success on exams like the TAKS, STAAR exams, SAT II, and other similar high-stakes tests.

In the course of this study, we will occasionally present work to our colleagues, present work at educational conferences, or publish scholarly articles that might include student data (without full names), student pictures (without full names), and film clips of students (without full names). The work produced will be used for not-for-profit educational purposes only. There is no compensation for your child's participation. The film clips and images may be used by Lanier Chemistry teachers as examples of instructional practice in future educational seminars and trainings. The clips and images may also be used on Lanier Chemistry teachers' websites or publications by the same team for teacher education purposes. These film clips and images will not be sold or used for commercial purposes.

By signing the attached form you are giving Lanier Chemistry teachers permission to make images or film clips of your child or of your child's work solely for the purpose of teacher professional development. You or your student may decline participation at any point without penalty, and participation is not linked with class objectives or grades. If your student does not participate, his/her teacher will provide an alternative activity or seat your student out of range of the video or camera while the material is being videotaped.

For parents/guardians:

_____ I hereby certify that I am the parent and/or guardian of _____,
a child under the age of eighteen years. I hereby consent that any recordings or images that have been, or are about to be made by Lanier's Chemistry teachers, may be used by these same teachers for the purpose set forth in the original release hereinabove.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Print Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Date: _____

For students 18 year of age and older:

_____ I hereby certify that I am at least 18 years of age and competent to contract in my own name in so far as the above is concerned.

Signature: _____ Print Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Date: _____

Comments to teacher: