

# Honors Chemistry

## Grosse Pointe South High School

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**Goals:** There are several goals for the students in this course, namely:

- prepare the students for the rigors of AP and college chemistry
- build study skills and self discipline
- promote scientific literacy through content knowledge
- increase lab proficiency
- grow teamwork skills
- help the students succeed

**Expectations:** It is expected that the students will

- attend class on a regular basis in a timely fashion
- promptly make up missed work independently when absent
- prepare for class on a daily basis by keeping up with their assignments, notes, etc., and asking for help when necessary
- take responsibility for their own learning

**When can students come for extra help?**

- before school - I am usually here by ~7:15 am
- during first or fourth hour, by appointment
- before or after class, or during if appropriate
- immediately after school

**Assessment:** Students are assessed in the following ways

- content knowledge and synthesis
- quizzes and tests
- Quality and completeness of written work
- Analytical skills, comprehension and “professional” presentation demonstrated in lab work and reports

Homework is assigned from two to four times weekly. The answers are discussed in class to monitor progress and understanding, and are usually posted in the showcase for students to check their progress. The material on the homework and lab work is included on the quizzes.

This forces the students to discipline themselves to complete the assignments on their own. In Honors Chemistry, quizzes come about every five to seven class days, and tests are administered at the end of each unit, usually about every three weeks.

In Honors Chemistry, the tests count as four weights, the quizzes are one weight, and lab reports typically as a 1/2 weight. The tests and quizzes are curved based on class results (highest score gets the A). Students who achieve lower than a C on a test may opt to retake a similar test. If the student retakes the test and scores a C or higher, their test score is changed to a C. If they score lower than a C, the higher of the two test scores is maintained.

As part of our school's workload planning initiative, every effort to choose assessment dates that limit your testing to a maximum of three tests/assessments per school day. It is your responsibility to check Schoology and monitoring your own schedule. If you have more than three assessments scheduled on the same day and are feeling overwhelmed, please speak to me at least three days in advance and we will agree upon an alternative completion time.

**Test or Quiz Make-up Policy:** As tests and quizzes are announced well in advance, it is expected if you are present on the class day before the test or quiz, the missed test or quiz will be taken on the next day you are present in school.

**Work return policy:** All work, other than semester exams, is returned to the students.

## Honors Chemistry Example of typical Quarter grade calculation

|                             | Points possible | grade | Score recorded | Score in calculation |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------|----------------|----------------------|
| Test #1<br>(four weights)   | 100 (400)       | B-    | 81             | 324                  |
| Test #2<br>(four weights)   | 100 (400)       | B+    | 88             | 352                  |
| Test #3<br>(four weights)   | 100 (400)       | A-    | 91             | 364                  |
| Quiz #1<br>(two weights)    | 100 (200)       | B+    | 88             | 176                  |
| Quiz #2<br>(one weight)     | 100             | A-    | 91             | 91                   |
| hw #1 (half weight)         | 48              | 5     | 40             | 40                   |
| hw #2 (half weight)         | 48              | 6     | 48             | 48                   |
| hw #3 (half weight)         | 48              | 5     | 40             | 40                   |
| hw #4 (half weight)         | 48              | 6     | 48             | 48                   |
| hw #5 (half weight)         | 48              | 6     | 48             | 48                   |
| Lab report<br>(half weight) | 48              | 5     | 40             | 40                   |
| Lab report<br>(half weight) | 48              | 6     | 48             | 48                   |
| Lab report (one weight)     | 96              | 10    | 80             | 80                   |
|                             | 1932            |       |                | 1715                 |

$$\left(\frac{1715}{1932}\right) * 100\% = 89\% \quad \mathbf{B+}$$

## Grading Scales used in Honors Chemistry 2019 - 2020

### Test/Quiz grading scale

| Letter grade | score recorded* |
|--------------|-----------------|
| A+           | 100             |
| A            | 95              |
| A-           | 91              |
| B+           | 88              |
| B            | 85              |
| B-           | 81              |
| C+           | 78              |
| C            | 75              |
| C-           | 71              |
| D+           | 68              |
| D            | 65              |
| D-           | 61              |
| E            | 50              |

### “one-weight” completion

| Score on assignment | score recorded |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 12                  | 96             |
| 11                  | 88             |
| 10                  | 80             |
| 9                   | 72             |
| 8                   | 64             |
| 7                   | 56             |
| 6                   | 48             |
| 5                   | 40             |
| 4                   | 32             |
| 3                   | 24             |
| 2                   | 16             |
| 1                   | 8              |
| 0                   | 0              |

### “half-weight” completion

| Score on assignment | score recorded |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 6                   | 48             |
| 5                   | 40             |
| 4                   | 32             |
| 3                   | 24             |
| 2                   | 16             |
| 1                   | 8              |
| 0                   | 0              |

\*multiplied by the number of weights in determining quarter grade