

**Richland Northeast High School**  
**Chemistry I Honors Syllabus**  
**Mrs. Polite**  
**Email: [apolite@richland2.org](mailto:apolite@richland2.org)**  
**School Phone and Voicemail: 803-699-2800 ext. 79624**

Dear Student and Parent:

Welcome to Honors Chemistry! This course is an in-depth study of the composition of the universe, focusing on the key building blocks: atoms and molecules. As a lab-based science course, students are required to perform a variety of scientific and mathematical tasks. The general goals of this class are to prepare for college, strengthen mathematical and problem-solving skills, and encourage higher-order thinking.

**Required materials:** Students will need to bring the following materials to class *each day*:

1. Pencil *and* a blue or black ball-point pen
2. One college-ruled spiral notebook OR a 3-Ringed Binder
3. Loose-leaf paper
4. Scientific calculator (Just make certain it has “EE,” “log” and “exponent” buttons)

*A calculator is required to complete assignments*; if cost is an obstacle, please let me know.

**Class Rules:**

1. Be respectful to all people at all times.
2. Be prepared to start class on time.
3. No food or drinks (only water)

**Consequences:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense: Verbal Warning  
2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Call home and/or detention  
3<sup>rd</sup> offense: Office referral

**Grading**

All Richland Northeast High School classes will be graded on a total points system. In a course that is graded using total points, each assignment has a point value that is a predetermined part of a whole point value. The weight of the assignment on the final grade is therefore tied to the number of points available in the assignment.

**Assignments**

Tests and Projects	100 to 200 pts
Labs	25 to 50 pts
Quizzes	10 to 25 pts
Homework/Classwork	5 to 10 pts

**State Grading Scale**

A	100-90
B	89-80
C	79-70
D	69-60
F	Below 60

**All assignments not made up will receive a grade of zero.**

**Note:** Any senior with a B average or greater going into the final exam, will be eligible for final exam exemption.

**Homework:** Students should expect to have homework (almost) every night. Proper format for working problems must be followed at all times. Homework is checked at the beginning of class; late homework is not accepted, as the answers are reviewed in class.

**Late Work:** For projects, papers, lab reports, and other major assignments, 10 points will be deducted every day that it is late. Students will be given ample time to complete assignments.

**Retake Policy**

Students are able to make up major summative assessments (tests) by completing the Request to Retake form (located on teacher website), showing proof of effort to improve understanding of topic by completing previous formative assessments or extra practice provided by the teacher AND tutoring, and showing up to the scheduled make up testing time afterschool. **Failure to complete all tasks negates the Request to Retake.** The highest grade out of the two will be recorded. **Only one test retake is allowed per quarter.**

**Honor Code & Cheating:** The Academic Integrity Policy of Richland District 2 will be strictly followed in this course. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying another person's work
- Allowing someone to copy your work
- Copying and pasting without giving credit
- Using copyrighted images without giving credit
- Having notes, cheat sheets, writing on the body or clothes that provides an advantage on a test

The following statement will be used on assignments: On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this assignment. I understand that any violation of the RSD2 Honor Code will result in academic and disciplinary action.

**Cell Phones, Chromebooks and other Electronics:** These are the guidelines for cell phones, chromebooks and the use of other electronics:

1. Chromebooks will be used extensively in class, but it is the student's responsibility to use them appropriately. Students will not play games on these devices during class instruction. If they do so, they will lose the right to use them.
2. During class, students will only use devices to complete assignments that are related to the instructional lesson or any other approved activity WITH teacher permission. In other words, please do not take devices out unless I say so AND when permission is granted, they are only to be used to complete the work I assign.
3. Students will not record still or moving images or voices of students or the teacher without permission from the teacher. Students will not post recordings of still or moving images or voice recordings of students to online websites without permission.
4. Students will place ALL devices in book-bags or handbags during all assessments. The device must remain there until ALL assessments have been collected.

Failure to follow these guidelines for cell phones and other electronic devices will result in the following consequences:

1. The device will be collected and kept with the teacher until the end of the block.\*
2. The device will be collected and kept with the teacher until the end of the day.\*
3. The device will be collected and given to administration.

\* Administration will be called if the device is not turned in when I ask for it.

**Attendance Policy:** Students are allowed 10 absences in any year-long course and five (5) absences in any semester course. These totals **INCLUDE** all absences documented with excuses. Any student exceeding the allotted totals will receive a failure due to attendance. Please refer to the student handbook for information regarding excessive absence recovery.

### **Absent Students**

There are various avenues to keep up with class information in the event that a student is absent. The student is advised first to check the What Did I Miss Webpage on [www.politechemistry.weebly.com](http://www.politechemistry.weebly.com). There they will find a brief synopsis of what was done in class for the day and what assignments were given out. Students are expected to meet with the teacher to avoid turning in late work and missing out on material that they do not understand BEFORE any assessments, as they will not be exempt from taking the assessment. The students are able to contact me through Remind, google classroom, email, twitter or the class website in order to gain more information on missed assignments.

**Tutoring:** I will be available for tutoring or make-up work before school each Tuesday and Thursday from 7:45-8:20 am; and during lunch the day before a test. I am also available by appointment before or after school. Let me know what you need and I will find a time to help!

**Laboratory Safety:** Labs are the hands-on experiences that are essential to understanding chemistry. Labs are designed to reinforce concepts or occasionally to introduce a new topic. Any student who violates the lab safety acknowledgment will *at minimum* be given a zero and removed from the lab immediately. The safety acknowledgement must be signed by the student and parent in order to participate in labs.

**Textbook: Chemistry: The Essential Science**

**Scope and Sequence:**

Unit 1: Introduction to Chemistry and Measurement (8 days)

Topics: Lab techniques and safety, scientific method, units of measurement, dimensional analysis

Unit 2: Atomic Structure (20 days)

Topics: Subatomic particles, ions and isotopes, nuclear chemistry, periodic table, electrons

Unit 3: Gases (10 days)

Topics: Kinetic Molecular Theory, ideal gases, gas laws and calculations

Unit 4: Bonding and Naming (14 days)

Topics: Types of bonds and properties, naming ionic and covalent, shapes, intermolecular forces

Unit 5: Chemical Reactions (15 days)

Topics: Classifying reactions, balancing equations, predicting products

Unit 6: Chemical Quantities (15 days)

Topics: The mole, empirical and molecular formulas, stoichiometry

Unit 7: Acids/Bases and Solutions (8 days)

Topics: Properties of acids, bases, and salts, calculating pH and pOH, solutions, molarity

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding concerning your safety, academic, and teacher expectations in Chemistry. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or things I should know about your student. I look forward to working with you this semester!

Mrs. Aherial Polite

Class Website: [www.politechemistry.weebly.com](http://www.politechemistry.weebly.com)

**Sign up for Reminders!** Parents and students will have an opportunity to sign up for reminders. It is a computer program called Remind that allows the teacher to send a text to a parent or student's phone without using a phone number. I will send text reminders about quizzes, tests, projects, and most importantly reminders about when to wear closed-toe shoes for lab. Students will have the opportunity to sign up during class.

**For Parents to sign up** – Send a text message containing the code @polite2b to 81010. You will receive a message in return asking for your name. Please identify yourself with the First and Last Name of your student-your relationship to the student. (Ex: If you are the father of the student Emily Jones, your name would be *Emily Jones-Dad*). You will then be in the system.

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