

Chemistry: Wentz & Meyer

RWentz@alpinedistrict.org DMeyer@alpinedistrict.org

Course Description: In this course, you will learn about the physical world around you. Substances can be described by their chemical structure or properties. Substances can be made of molecules and these molecules are made of atoms. When parts come together, the whole often has properties that are very different from its parts. The formation of compounds results in a great diversity of matter from a limited number of elements. When matter combines, energy is absorbed or released and matter is rearranged to make new substances with new properties.

Intermediate Algebra is prerequisite to this course, and we will be using Algebra as a tool to help us analyze and understand the world around us. The text we will use in class is *Modern Chemistry*, by Davis. You may also use the USOE OER chemistry text ([free pdf online](#) or [print version \\$5.49](#)) as a resource.

What You Will Learn: Chemistry is organized around major concepts of matter, structure, energy, and change. Students will be taught how to think scientifically as they conduct experiments and analyze data. Students will learn the content of the Utah Core Curriculum for Chemistry. The core may be viewed at:
<http://www.usoe.k12.ut.us/>

How You Will Show What You Learned: Students will demonstrate their understanding of Chemistry through their lab reports, assignments, projects, quizzes, and unit tests. If you are absent on a lab or test day, you need to make up the test **within one week**. After that you may not make it up. If the absence was *unexcused*, you will receive a zero for the lab/test.

What To Do If You Don't Learn It: If you begin to feel overwhelmed, or if you think you may need some help, please come visit with me as soon as possible!!! (Before school/after school.) The sooner you come in for help, the better off you will be. You may also visit the class website for additional help or to download copies of the assignments. Chemistry can be a lot of fun, but if you start to get behind, it is easy to feel lost.

Lab Experiments: You will be working in lab teams of 2 or 3 students for most experiments, but each student is responsible for completing and turning in his/her own lab report/assignment. For some experiments you are expected to write a formal report in a format you will soon receive. If I notice that one member of a lab team seems to be doing most of the work, I will lower the report grade for all members. While some elements of the lab report may be the same for all members of a lab team (such as data and graphs), I expect each individual to write his or her own report. **Students and parents must read and sign the Lab Safety Rules & Contract.** A student found violating *any* of the rules may receive a **failing grade for the term**.

Dry Lab: In some cases, students who miss lab activities will be given “dry lab” with which to complete their lab report due to the difficulty & inconvenience of recreating the lab setup after the original lab days have been completed.

Quizzes: We may have a quiz as class begins every day. Students who are tardy (**for whatever reason**) may not take the quiz. The quiz will usually consist of questions from a previous lesson, and is open note unless otherwise specified. (Students may NOT share notes on quizzes.) If a student misses a quiz for an excused absence, he/she may complete an additional assignment in lieu of the missed quiz, otherwise, he/she will receive a zero. Be IN YOUR ASSIGNED SEAT ready for the quiz when the bell rings to avoid tardies/zeroes. Students talking during the quiz will receive zero (regardless of what they are talking about). “Helping” a classmate on a quiz *is the definition of cheating* and may result in a zero that is ineligible for makeup.

Unit Tests: We will take an average of four unit exams each term. Please bring a pencil on test day. You may use a calculator on tests. Bring your own— sharing calculators will not be permitted, nor will the use of your mobile phone as a calculator. On most tests you may also use one-side of a 3”x5” note card, with any information on it you would like, provided that you prepare it yourself, and it is handwritten. Students must complete all tests given

to be eligible to pass a given term.

Each unit will be relatively short, and the exams will not take the entire class period for most students. There will always be an assignment to be completed after the exam on test days. Those students who use most of the class period working on the test should expect to do the after-exam assignments as homework. Everyone is expected to stay SILENT while working on these assignments so that others can complete their tests. Students talking during this time will have their test scores docked and may receive a zero on the test if talking continues after a warning. Phones and music players are prohibited (as always) during these times.

Retakes: At the end of each term, students may do a retake on ONE (and only one) of the unit tests from that term if they wish. This will be done in the Student Assistance Center during the week specified on the class calendar. Retakes have a 90% ceiling.

Grades will be given on a total points basis using the following grade scale:

A: 100-93%	B: 86-83%	C: 76-73%	D: 66-63%
A-: 92-90%	B-: 82-80%	C-: 72-70%	D-: 62-60%
B+: 89-87%	C+: 79-77%	D+: 69-67%	F: 59- 0

Grading In Class: From time to time we may grade assignments or quizzes in class. Students may be required to grade or review the work of others, and have their work graded or reviewed by other students. I also use student aides to grade some work.

Progress Reports: You may check your grades on the Skyward website. I may post grades by student ID number in my classroom if I feel it necessary. It is your responsibility to notify me of any errors (including zeroes which may be the result of no-name-papers) within one week of posting. This is also the case for term grades. Any problem not addressed within a week will no longer be eligible for redress.

Materials: You will need the following with you *each class period*: A 3-ring binder or folder, lined paper, a pen or pencil, and a scientific calculator. A good scientific calculator that does trig functions and exponential notation can be purchased for about \$10. A *graphing* calculator is not *required* in this course, but *may be used* if you have one. (Most **Math** courses at LPHS require a graphing calculator-- check with your teacher.) A cell phone may NOT be used as calculator.

Attendance Policy Summary: You are expected to be on time, and come to class every day. Lone Peak High School has established an attendance policy to promote increased opportunities for learning and reduction in classroom interruptions. Below is a summary of student attendance expectations. Should a student go over established limits, he/she will lose credit in the class until the issue is resolved by attending Attendance School or a successful appeal to the administration. When students are absent, parents should contact the attendance office (763-7060) to verify the absence within 2 weeks. This is the only way to excuse an absence.

- * Students are allowed three (3) tardies per class each term.
- * Students are allowed four (4) excused absences per class each term.
- * Students are not allowed any (0) un-excused absences or trancies each term.

Slacker Passes / Extra Credit: Students will be issued a 'Slacker Pass' at the beginning of each term. **These will not be replaced if they are lost or stolen.** The Slacker Pass has six punches first term. The number of punches available decreases each term. Punches can be used for any of the following: using the Hall Pass during class, asking the teacher to look up your grade for you, loan of a calculator, turning in a late assignment, taking a missed quiz. On the last day of each term, unused punches on the Slacker Pass may be turned in for extra credit. That's all the extra credit there is—be careful how you use your Slacker Pass. **No bonus points of any kind will be applied to your grade if you do not yet have a passing grade based on your own merits. Any assignment not turned in will cost a punch on your pass. If you do not have an appropriate calculator, you will be charged a punch to borrow one of mine—whether you want to or not.**

Homework Policy: *Assignments are due at the beginning of class.* Some assignments will be corrected in class, some corrected by the teacher. On occasions when students are allowed to keep a completed assignment, the assignment will be quickly checked and stamped during class. To receive a stamp the assignment must be completed, or at least attempted with reasonable work shown for *every* problem. When pre-stamped assignments are turned in for final grading, a stamped paper will be eligible for 100%, while a paper without a stamp will receive a maximum of 50%.

Absent/Late Work Policy: Any assignment turned in after the initial passing-in during class must be turned in with a "LATE" form stapled to it. (Even if it is later the same period/day.) If the late form is not filled out completely and accurately, the assignment will not receive credit. Lack of attention on your part does not grant you an exception! Pass things up when requested. Turn absent/late work in to the appropriate location with the required form.

An absence on the day the assignment is given results in ONE additional class period to turn it in. An absence on the day the assignment is due results in ONE additional class period to turn it in. **If the assignment is online, absence on the due date DOES NOT grant any additional time.** (In the case of extended absence, it is the responsibility of the student to speak to the teacher *on the day the student returns to class* to arrange a case-specific deadline for missed work.)

Assignments that are LATE (not due to excused absence) will cost a punch on the slacker pass to be eligible for credit. I reserve the right to refuse any assignment that is more than one week late. Each unit will have a late work deadline approximately one week after the exam. No assignments from the unit will be accepted for credit after the unit late work deadline has passed.

Final Exam: We will have a comprehensive state end-of-level test fourth term. Questions for the final exam may be taken from anything that we covered during the entire year. It is strongly encouraged that you keep your notes organized so that you can use them to review for this exam at the end of the year.

Participation: I expect you to follow the *Knight Code of Conduct:*

- *Treat fellow students with respect and consideration.*
- *Treat school staff members with respect.*
- *Attend school regularly.*
- *Be honest.*
- *Keep illegal substances away from the school.*
- *Be ON TIME to class.*

Take care of equipment & school property (do not write on desks, etc.)

Do **NOT** mess around during labs or with any equipment set up in the room. Do not touch lab equipment without permission.

Leave class only when dismissed (or by permission of the teacher). Leaving class early will result in being marked truant (even if it was near the end of class).

If the teacher suspects students of cheating or other dishonest behavior on any assignment (homework/lab/quiz/test) the student may be required to complete a second (alternate) version to verify the ability to do the assignment on his/her own. In most cases this will mean fill in the blank questions will replace multiple choice questions.

Cell phones and music players (iPod or otherwise) are forbidden in my class. If I see it, if I hear it, if someone else sees or hears it— it will be confiscated. I do not care what your excuse is, and I do not care whether it was on or not. This will also affect your participation grade. Students who refuse to hand over these devices on demand will be referred to the administration.

School Dress Code is enforced. Sleeves must have a cap. Shorts must end closer to the knee than the bend of the hip. Leggings are NOT pants. They must be covered by a shirt or skirt that ends closer to the kneed than the bend of the hip. If the teacher feels that your apparel is in violation of the dress code, you will be sent to the office. This is not a matter for discussion with the teacher. When a note requesting that you go to the main office is given to the student, the student is expected to immediately go to the main office, not to dispute the call. If the office notifies the teacher that the student in question did not arrive, the student will be referred to the attendance office as a truancy in addition to being reported to administration as a dress code violation.