



# Chemistry 1A

A Study of the Properties of Matter and its Changes

## Course Expectations & Grading Guidelines 2010-2011



### About Chemistry 1A

Chemistry 1A is a full year, six-credit, higher level chemistry course designed for those students having considerable interest and aptitude in science studies. It will adequately provide the chemistry background for those students intending to take science courses at the university level. Basic chemical principles and theories are developed in both qualitative and quantitative schemes that require memorization and a high level of mathematical and problem solving ability on the part of the students.

### The Basics of What You Will Learn

- Conceptual and analytical chemistry content
- Analytical problem solving
- Accurate use of scientific language
- Verbal and written reporting of scientific data
- Applied mathematics
- Spatial intelligence (thinking in 3D)
- Engagement in scientific inquiry
- Healthy Skepticism
- Communication Skills
- Teamwork
- Historical perspectives with regards to scientific discovery and innovation

*This course demands flawless mathematical proficiency and strong analytical ability, hard work, and dedication to success. You can expect to not only learn how to solve problems analytically (rather than by regurgitation), but how to understand your own thinking process and use that knowledge to further improve your proficiency in chemistry. I expect that students choosing Chemistry 1A have had sufficient prior coursework to prepare them for the rigor of chemistry content.*

### The “Big Three” Basic Rules

Respect --- Attendance --- Responsibility

#### Respect

Respect your classmates and your teacher. If you are talking or goofing around when they are trying to learn, you are being ruder to them than you are to me. Listen when others speak – don’t waste time asking questions that were already answered when you weren’t paying attention. Profanity has no place in the classroom, so leave it at home. Have fun, but not at another’s expense.

#### Attendance

Chemistry is, by its nature, cumulative. That means that everything we learn builds on what we learned before. Missing classes not only results in difficulties now, but snowballs as we progress through the topics. Be responsible for your attendance. Come to school. Be on time. If you need to buy an alarm clock to get out of bed five minutes earlier so you can be here, do it. If you must be absent, it is your responsibility to check the web sites and confer with your classmates to catch up.

#### Responsibility

You are responsible for balancing your schedule and for your attendance. If you choose to prioritize extra-curricular activities or other subjects over your coursework, be prepared to accept the academic consequences of that decision. If you choose goofing off and talking instead of paying attention to the lesson, your grade will reflect that decision. Take advantage of class time – you have nowhere else to be and nothing else to do during those 44 minutes. Most importantly, always look back at your old notes and materials – just because “That was, like, five months ago Mr. D!” doesn’t mean we won’t need it tomorrow.

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#### Reading and Writing

Literacy is the root of all learning. Your reading comprehension and writing skills will be tested, practiced, and refined in this course. One-word answers and cryptic sentence fragments are now relics of more ignorant time in your academic careers. You’ll be a better student and citizen for it, I assure you.

#### My Pledge to You

Of course, it isn’t fair for you to have to meet my expectations without my having to meet some of yours. I pledge to respect every student; to be fair, responsible, and compassionate; to return assignments in a timely fashion; to provide meaningful feedback; to be prepared every day to present exciting lessons; to make myself available for extra help; and to keep your parents involved in your learning process. Do not worry when you have a one “bad” quiz or exam or lab – you’ll have many opportunities to make up for it.

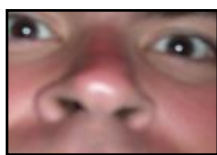
## Things to Know

1. **You must visit the class website and ProgressBook on a daily basis** for announcements, grades, assignments, and other things. I will assume you have done so in class, so please stay up to date.
2. **Every day, you need your notebook(s), your calculator (a scientific or graphing calculator), and something with which to write.** Please don't forget these items.
3. **No electronics** except for a calculator are permitted.
4. On lab days, if you lab out of a lunch period, **please pack something to eat.** Many of our labs are lengthy, so I can't guarantee that there will be time to go to lunch. Otherwise, **NO FOOD OR DRINKS ARE ALLOWED IN THE CLASSROOMS.**
5. **Please don't ask to leave the room, for any reason.** Take care of your business on your own time.
6. Please do not pack up early and/or attempt to stand by the door before I dismiss you. **I dismiss you, not the bell.**
7. If you miss a lab or assessment, **you must make it up within 5 school days** or you will receive no credit for the assignment.

## About Your Grade

1. Unless you are absent on the due date, **I do not accept late work. NO EXCEPTIONS.** Use a planner to keep track of your assignments. If you are absent, the assignment is due the day you return. You will receive very little actual homework from me, so please be responsible.
2. I will determine your grade based on a system I call "Mastery Grading." You will receive a separate document with the details of how Mastery Grading works. It is a hybrid of a traditional points system and a system called "standards-referenced," and promises to be highly effective in helping you to achieve the learning objectives of the course.
3. **Assessments can come at any time.** Be ready.
4. Your grammar, spelling, and writing ability are important. They are accounted for in the Mastery Grading System.
5. **"Extra Credit" does not exist.** I believe that "extra credit" undermines a student's education and defeats the purpose of a good grading system. It does not fit into the Mastery Grading model.
6. Your "grades" are available for your review on the **Progressbook** parent access website. This data will be live, and I will update it whenever I grade an assessment. There is no reason for you not to be up to date on your own progress.
7. If you have a question about a grade, please discuss it with me **OUTSIDE OF CLASS.** Keep all of your old work for future reference!

## About Mr. Dappolone



I earned my Bachelor of Engineering degree in Chemical Engineering with a minor in Biochemical Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey, and my Master of Chemistry Education from the University of Pennsylvania. After college, I worked as a process engineer for several years before changing careers to education, where I've discovered I belong for good. I believe that chemistry is a challenging topic in which all students can be successful with hard work, strong work ethic, and responsibility for their performance. This is my seventh year teaching physical science at Cherry Hill High School East. I'm also the East webmaster and the Advisor for the Student Government Association.

## Academic Integrity

I take academic integrity very seriously. It is more important to me that you work hard and make the effort to understand, rather than simply get the correct answers from a friend with no sense of how those answers were determined. Passing off the work of others as our own, especially published or copyrighted work, is the highest form of academic dishonesty. I expect that all of your work will be your own, even when working with groups. In addition, any attempt to gain an unfair advantage also falls under the category of academic integrity. Please consider the implications very carefully before engaging in any of these activities.

## Got Internet?

Course materials are available at <http://courses.digitaldapp.org>. Grades are available for your review at <http://parentaccess.chclc.org>. You are expected to check both of these sites for changes and updates at least once a day. Please do not ask me in class "What's my grade?" or "Am I missing anything?" These things are your responsibility.

Curriculum Information: <http://east.chclc.org/eastmain.asp?selection=curriculum>

Online Course Materials:  
<http://courses.digitaldapp.org>

Online Grades & Assignments:  
<http://parentaccess.chclc.org>

Email: [mdappolone@chclc.org](mailto:mdappolone@chclc.org)  
Phone: 856.424.2222 x2315