

AP Chemistry Goals and Objectives

Welcome to Advanced Placement (AP) Chemistry!

Course Content: AP Chemistry is a second year chemistry class designed to help students prepare for the AP Chemistry exam. It is an advanced course that moves quickly and requires self motivation and determination to keep up and do well. The textbook for this class is Chemistry by Zumdahl and Zumdahl (sixth edition) published in 2003 (\$60.00). Here are some guidelines to make your year in AP Chem a **safe** and **successful** one:

Methods: The course content will be presented mainly through readings from the text, lectures, class discussions, assignments, and labs.

Course Requirements: (Things to bring daily.)

- Your **textbook**, which will be your main teacher.
- A **calculator** - nothing fancy is needed, but one that does scientific notation is a lifesaver!
- A **binder or folder** with notebook paper for handouts, notes, finished assignments, and completed tests and quizzes.
- Something with which to **write**.
- An inquisitive, focused **mind**.

Grading is based on cumulative points from the following scale:

90 -100% of points possible	A
80 - 89% of points possible	B
70 - 79% of points possible	C
60 - 69% of points possible	D
59% and lower	F

[Note: I do round scores to the nearest whole number according to the standard rounding rules, so 89.5% would count as an A but 89.4% would be a B.]

Approximate Grade Breakdown:

Tests and Quizzes: 70%
Homework, labs, and projects: 30%

Grades can be checked online (<http://web.acsalaska.net/~ray.depalatis>) if you know your school password. . This site also contains a calendar posting your homework assignments and labs. Missed handouts can often be downloaded from the calendar as well.

Tests and Quizzes will periodically be used to check your understanding of concepts, procedures, and information. Tests are challenging and will be given after each topical unit. Practice multiple choice quizzes are available for each chapter test on Mr. Kemper's web site at www2.asdk12.ak.us/kemper. (Mr. Kemper teaches AP Chem at Service.)

Labs will be done approximately once a week and will be graded on safety, participation, and quality of write-up. I expect neatly handwritten or typed reports. I will take off for messiness, incompleteness, or a poor conclusion.

Attendance policies of the school will be followed. Your regular and punctual attendance is considered extremely important and will be treated as such. If you get behind in AP Chem it will be very tough for you to catch up.

Make-Up Work: You the student are responsible for all of the material covered in class and in the readings, whether you're in class or not. If you are absent for any reason there are a few things you should do:

1. Call a friend who's in the class to find out what happened (exchanging phone numbers with someone in the class is a good idea).
2. Check my web site (<http://web.acsalaska.net/~ray.depalatis>) to see what you missed. You will often be able to download the assignment, use the book to figure out how to do the assignment, and turn it in when you come back to class.
3. See me for make-up work after class or during lunch.

According to the student handbook, you are allowed as many days to make up the work as you were absent. (For example, if you are absent for three days, you have three days from the day you return to school to turn in the missing assignments.) Since we often cover a lot of material that builds on itself, you don't want get behind. Try to get as much work done while you're gone as possible.

Tests and quizzes must be made up the day you return from an absence unless special arrangements were made or you had an extended absence.

Note: This is NOT a good year to take time off of school for a family vacation!

Classroom behavior is of the highest expectation and standard because of the laboratory nature and potential danger of this course.

1. You are expected to follow directions carefully.
2. Never perform any experiment or procedure not specifically directed by your instructor or assigned in the lab.
3. No playful behavior will be permitted in the laboratory. Such behavior may result in your being permanently removed from the room because of the potential hazard of such behavior to you and to other students in this environment.
4. Safety equipment must be worn as directed to complete labs.
5. Loose clothing (coats, hats, or other potentially hazardous materials) are not permitted in the lab.

Food and Drink? Food is not allowed in class unless we make it ourselves or I bring it in. Drinks at the desks are fine as long as you throw away your bottles and clean up any spills. No food or drinks are permitted in the lab.

Need Help? If you need some extra help with any of the material, please arrange to meet with me before or after school or during lunch. Please don't hesitate to get help if you feel you need it and don't put it off! Short discussions can sometimes solve big problems.

E-mail: My e-mail address is Depalatis_Laurel@asdk12.org . I usually check my e-mail during the day and in the evenings at home. It is the best way for you or your parents to contact me.

I'm expecting great things of AP Chem this year. I hope you find it to be a rewarding and enjoyable experience!

Sincerely,

-Mrs. Laurel DePalatis