

# Honors Chemistry & General Chemistry

## Course Information

**Instructor:** Mr. Olin Bausback  
**Year:** 2009 - 2010  
**Texts:** Modern Chemistry, Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 2006  
Modern Chemistry Study Guide, Holt, Rinehart & Winston

### CLASS FORMAT

**Materials:** Each day the student should bring the course texts, a scientific calculator, his/her class notebook (3 ring to add handouts and with paper), the class notes downloaded from the class website, and a pen and a pencil.

**Classwork & Labs:** Laboratory work and activities will serve to strengthen concepts presented in the text and in lecture. Most labs are completed on handouts given out in class and are due in class that same day. Sometimes, if more time is needed to answer the lab questions, the students will be able to take the lab home to finish the questions and turn it in the next day. Safety is a primary concern during labs and activities. Students should always listen for safety tips presented before each lab. Fooling around and intentional misuse of equipment will not be tolerated and may end up in a student being suspended from all labs.

**Missed Labs:** If a student misses a lab due to absence, s/he may make up the lab by typing a two-page report on an article **related to science** from a science magazine (Discover is good). The article (or a Xerox) must be handed in with the report **within three school days** of the absence. Only two labs can be made up this way per term.

**Presentations:** Material will be presented regularly on topics in the text as well as related topics. Students may download the notes (at home or in the library) from the website and keep them well organized in a three ring binder notebook. The students fill in parts of the notes during the presentation. It is the student's responsibility to have the notes in class every day. Students receive credit for having the particular notes in class on the day they are presented. Since they are available well in advance, no credit will be given for late notes. No computer/printer malfunction excuses will be accepted. Students simply need to plan ahead to have them.

**Homework:** Homework is assigned daily and is always due the next school day. **LATE HOMEWORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Most homework assignments will be in the blue "Study Guide" which accompanies the class textbook. Homework assignments are posted on the class website well in advance (See URL address below). Honors students will have additional assignments listed. If a student loses the study guide, s/he can either Xerox another student's study guide worksheets (before they are filled in) or purchase a replacement Study Guide for \$20.

**Special Note on Homework:** Students are expected to spend time thinking about and working through the homework. It is essential to be successful in the class. Students should never copy a problem from another student. There is a huge difference between working together to understand homework and just copying it. All problems must be attempted with the "set of tools" presented in class. Problems do not have to be correct to receive credit, but it must be clear that a serious attempt to solve the problem is made.

**In order to pass the course successfully, the student shall:**

1. Attend daily and complete all in class assignments.
2. Complete the homework nightly.
3. Come in for extra help promptly if not understanding a new topic.
4. See Mr. Bausback immediately after an absence and make up any work missed **within three school days** of the absence.

**Science Fair Project:** Required of Honors Chemistry students and worked on throughout the two terms.

**Grading:** A student earns his/her grade through the points accumulated over the term. The points are totaled and weighted as follows:

	<b>Honors Chem</b>	<b>General Chem</b>
Classwork	20% of grade	30% of grade
Tests	30% of grade	35% of grade
Homework	10% of grade	15% of grade
Final Exam	25% of grade	20% of grade
Science Project	15% of grade	N/A

**Checking Grades:** After each test, I will post the students' grades on my class website (the student's ID# is the password). A parent and student should check these regularly to see exactly where they stand and what they need to accomplish in order to achieve their desired grade.

**Extra Help:** Due to the "progressive" nature of the course, it is critical that the student master topics as they are discussed and not wait until the night before a test. I am usually available before school (7:30 am) in room F-6. I am often able to arrange for past AP Chemistry students to be here in the mornings as well, offering plenty of extra help. Many tutors are listed on the website. I also encourage students to form study groups.

**Returning After An Absence:** If absence is to be longer than two days, I suggest emailing me for an update on what's going on in class. Most information about what is due can be found on the class website.

**The Web Site:** My class web site has student grades, the class notes, copies of most of the handouts that the students receive, and has the homework posted for the entire term. I also post test reviews and the HW Study Guides as well as student grades. Students without computers at home are welcome to use the ones in my classroom before or after school or the ones in the library.

<http://members.cox.net/chemistry>

**How to contact Mr. Bausback:** *The best way to reach me is through email.*

**Address:** "obausback@smroyals.org"

**My telephone number at SMHS is 967-4581 Ext: 361**

I do not check my voicemail regularly. Please email me instead. I do not check either after 2:00pm and do not receive messages or emails on weekends. If you do leave a voicemail message and do not hear back from me, it means I did not receive it and it would be best to email me.