

## AP Chemistry Summer Preparation Guide 2014-15

Welcome to AP Chemistry. Read this entire document as soon as you can so that you can properly plan out your summer.

### Minimum requirements

The minimum qualities you should have before beginning this course in August are:

1. Strong algebra skills, and ability to work with logarithms.
2. Ability to proficiently use a graphing or scientific calculator to solve algebra or logarithm problems.
3. Strong background in basic chemistry. If you earned an "A" in CHEMISTRY or ICS 1 at LACES during the 2013-14 year, then you already demonstrated proficiency in these basic chemistry topics.
4. Memorize and know how to name or write chemical formulas for ionic compounds that contain polyatomic ions and metal ions. These ions are the same one's on the periodic table used in the Chemistry and ICS 1 classes.

The materials you should obtain by the first day of class are:

1. Scientific or graphing calculator. I recommend a graphing calculator, such as the TI-83+ or TI-84+. I use a TI-83+.
2. The largest spiral-bound notebook you can find. You will take a lot of notes and do a lot of practicing throughout the year. You will use this notebook for both in-class notes/practice and homework.

### Day 1 Test

On the first day of this class you will take your first test. The content of this test will be from the ICS 1 and Chemistry courses. Read below to find out how to access this information.

You must pass this test in order to continue in the class. A passing score for this first test is 80%. If you pass, then you will automatically earn a score of 100 for your first test. If you don't, then you'll re-test with a different version. If you pass on the second try, then you'll earn a score of 80. You will re-test until you pass, and for all subsequent tries you will earn a score of 60. Do yourself a favor and prepare for this first test to get off to a great start and avoid the re-test hassle.

### Build your Chemistry skills

If you have not developed your basic skills in chemistry, or wish to improve your skills go to the PAGES section where you'll find the following:

1. *Standards* for each topic. They will tell you what specific skills/knowledge you need to know.
2. *Pre-tests* of the various topics in chemistry. You can input your answer choices to these html-based multiple choice and multiple response assessments, and you will find out how you did and get the correct answer to each question.
3. *Videos* of chemistry lessons recorded during this past school year.
4. *Resources* including a periodic table, and links to simulation software.

One other resource you may want to use to learn basic chemistry is the Zumdahl Chemistry textbook (7<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Use the Standards from the PAGES section, and read up on those topics in the textbook.

### **The Discussion Section**

You will be expected to work with each other in various settings throughout the year. The Discussion section of Schoology.com is one way you can work with others from wherever you have Internet connection. If you earned high participation scores last year in ICS 1 or Chemistry, then you're probably familiar with this system. For all the rest of you, I encourage you to get started. The discussion section will be available throughout the summer so all of you interested in getting help and also giving help please participate. It'll make my job easier, and everyone's performance (and level of happiness) will rise as a result.

### **Expectations**

Plan out your summer appropriately. Some of you may need to do a lot of studying, while others may not have to do anything other than memorize the polyatomic ions and metal ions. You should all be mature enough to manage your learning progress so that you come in prepared on day 1.

### **Frequently asked questions**

*"Do I need to acquire a study guide, like Barron's?"*

No. My course will prepare you adequately to earn a "5" on the AP exam, attain a superior SAT Chemistry subject score, and develop a strong foundation for college-level chemistry and beyond.

*"Do I need to register on the Schoology.com website?"*

Yes. All communications will take place through Schoology, and all resource materials will only be available to those who access our Schoology.com page.

*"When is the last day I can drop out of this course?"*

To be honest you should determine whether to drop this course before school begins to reduce the disruptions that occur once school begins. However, if you wish to wait I believe you have five days to drop this course once school begins.

*"Can I get help directly from Mr. Mukai for my questions?"*

Post your questions in the Discussion section. That way anyone can help, including me. When I get a chance I will check the posts and provide feedback as needed.

*"What can I do if I want to get ahead?"*

Read the Zumdahl textbook. We will pretty much go in order from chapter 1 so read ahead if you'd like to get ahead.

*"How do I get in touch with Mr. Mukai?"*

Contact me by e-mail at [kmukai99@gmail.com](mailto:kmukai99@gmail.com).