

MVLA
2025-2026
COURSE INFORMATION SHEET

Course Title: Chemistry Honors

School: LAHS

UC/CSU requirement: 10 Credits Laboratory Science "D" Requirement

Textbook and/or other learning resources: Chemistry 6th Edition by Masterson and Hurley

Course Description:

In its simplest definition, chemistry is the study of matter. More specifically, chemistry deals with the properties and reactions of substances. This honors level course is designed to help the student better understand the underlying chemical principles that encompass their world. It will be conducted at an advanced rate compared to general chemistry and students are expected to work accordingly. Topics covered in this college preparatory chemistry honors course include: Matter and Measurement, Atomic Structure, Nuclear Reactions, Stoichiometry, Types of Reactions, Electrochemistry, Electronic Structure, Nomenclature, Ionic and Covalent Bonding, Periodicity, Kinetics, Equilibrium, and Acid/Base Chemistry. The topics just listed will be woven in such a way as to shed light upon environmental topics that are relevant in today's modern world. These broader topics include: Energy Production and Chemistry of Climate Change and Ocean Acidification.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Through this course, students will demonstrate their ability to:

- engage in NGSS science and engineering practices to perform investigations, solve problems and communicate ideas.
- analyze and evaluate scientific data.
- apply mathematical concepts and construct models to understand natural phenomena.
- identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made.
- evaluate the importance of chemical processes in the cyclical progression of the natural world.
- learn about chemical concepts through firsthand observations and test concepts and principles that are introduced in the classroom.
- explore specific problems with a depth not easily achieved otherwise, and gain an awareness of the importance of confounding variables that exist in the "real world".
- engage in dialogue and research with classmates to build listening and public speaking skills.
- understand the ethical, moral, legal, and cultural issues related to research.

Assessment and Grading ([BP 5121](#) / [AR 5121](#)): To ensure that every student has an equal opportunity to demonstrate their learning, the course instructors implement aligned grading practices and common assessments with the same frequency.

1. Grading categories and their percentage weights:

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Homework / Classwork | 15% |
| Quizzes | 25% |
| Exams | 25% |
| Labs / Projects | 25% |
| Final Exam | 10% |

2. Achievement evidence collected within each grading category:

Students will be informed of the quantity, weight, and due dates of assignment/assessments in each grading category on Canvas. Lab work, classwork, homework, exams, quizzes, and projects/presentations will all contribute to the overall grade earned by the student.

3. Grading scales:

| | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| A+ 100% | B+ 87 - 89.9% | C+ 77 - 77.9% | D+ 67 - 69.9% | F 0 - 59.9% |
| A 93 - 99.9% | B 83 - 86.9% | C 73 - 76.9% | D 63 - 66.9% | |
| A- 90 - 92.9% | B- 80 - 82.9% | C- 70 - 72.9% | D- 60 - 62.9% | |

4. Homework/outside of class practices ([AR 6154](#)):

- Homework is assigned regularly (Mon-Fri) and will generally consist of textbook reading, problems, watching videos, lab report writing, and/or worksheets.
- Homework is normally due the day following the assignment and will be checked regularly for **completeness**, not correctness.
- Chemistry resembles a math class in many ways; therefore, all work must be shown to receive credit.
- Typical homework loads are 30-60 minutes an evening.

5. Excused absence make-up practices ([Education Code 48205\(b\)](#)):

- Students who are absent should refer to the teacher's Canvas page to find out what they missed. It is your responsibility to find out if homework was checked and show your work to the instructor for credit.
- If you have an **excused** absence on the day of an exam, it is your responsibility to make arrangements with the instructor to take the exam immediately upon your return to class. Exams must be made-up within a week of your absence. Excused absences on exam days should not occur frequently during the school year.
- Missed labs need to be scheduled for a make-up or alternate assignment.

6. Academic integrity violation practices ([LAHS Acad. Integrity Policy](#) / [MVHS Acad. Integrity Policy](#)):

Honesty, trust and integrity are vital components of the education process. The Governing Board believes that academic honesty and personal integrity are fundamental components of a student's education and character development. The Board expects that students will not cheat, lie, plagiarize or commit other acts of academic dishonesty. Students and families should understand and act upon the values of academic integrity and should encourage the highest standards of academic behavior from themselves and their peers. It is assumed that all work completed for a class is original work created for that class, for a specific assignment. Violations of Academic Integrity will be dealt with in a manner consistent with the MVLA-LAHS Academic Integrity Policy.

While Chemistry Honors students will frequently work together in labs and have the same data, all other parts of the lab report must be written individually and independently. Homework answers may not be copied from another student or the internet. *Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will earn a score of zero, denoted by a "V" in the grade book. There will not be an opportunity to make up the assignment.*

7. Late work practices:

- Late labs are accepted with a 20% penalty. **No late labs** will be accepted after the unit test.
- Homework not turned in by the due date will **not** receive full credit. Homework turned in by the day of the unit test will be given half credit. **No late homework** will be accepted after the unit test.

8. Revision practices:

- All quizzes will be graded pass/fail, with an 80% minimum score to pass. If students do not pass the quiz the first time, they will get one more chance to take the quiz for full credit up until the end of the unit. After the unit ends, students will lose the opportunity to retake that unit's quizzes.
- Students may rewrite lab reports for up to 70%. Students **must turn in lab rewrites no later than one week** after receiving the graded lab back from the instructor.
- There will be no exam retake opportunities. It is expected in honors that students seek assistance prior to the exam date.

9. Extra credit practices:

- An extra credit opportunity to raise a student's grade 1% will be offered each semester.

10. Additional grading practices:

- **Group work:** while students often work collaboratively on laboratory and other assignments, each student is required to submit his/her own written report for credit, including data analysis (graph). Raw data is the only information to be shared. All parties who have identical written prompts in the report will receive zeros for the assignment.
- **Grade Book Update Policy:** grades will be posted every 2-3 weeks on the [Student Information System \(SIS\)](#).

Instructors' email addresses:

| | | |
|----------------|--|----------|
| Darren Dressen | darren.dressen@mvla.net | Room 710 |
| Trina Mattson | trina.mattson@mvla.net | Room 701 |

James Mok
James Stiltner

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Room 702
Room 712

Additional information:

ABSENCES: An “unexcused absence” is an absence in excess of a 30-minute period occurring in a given class. Students may not exceed 14 unexcused absences across their entire schedule. A full day, unexcused absence counts as 5, 6 or 7 absences depending on how many classes a student carries toward the total of 14. On the 15th unexcused absence, students may be referred to an alternative educational program/site pursuant to the District’s involuntary transfer policy (AR/OP 5113).

TARDIES: Students may not exceed 19 unexcused tardies across their entire schedule. An unexcused tardy is an absence from class from when the bell rings until up to 30 minutes of a class period. At the 15th unexcused tardy, there will be a mandatory parent conference with the student’s Assistant Principal. This conference will be scheduled to occur the morning after the family is contacted by the school. At the student/parent conference, consequences for continued tardiness are discussed and the student is assigned to Saturday School. An attendance contract will also be signed at this meeting. Failure to attend Saturday School may result in a transfer to an alternative educational program/site.

Classroom Rules:

- For health and safety reasons – no eating, drinking, gum chewing or make-up applying allowed.
- Be respectful of others by acting as professionals. This includes being punctual, using courteous language, and showing appreciation to fellow peers and instructors.
- Bathroom necessities should be taken care of before or after class. In the event that you need to go during class, you are responsible for anything you missed and may not cause unnecessary disruption in leaving or returning.
- A chemistry class has special safety considerations. **You must always follow the instructor’s safety guidelines when performing laboratory procedures. Failure to comply with safety guidelines will result in severe disciplinary action!**