



# AP Chemistry

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## overall course content...

- The AP Chemistry course is designed to be the equivalent of the general chemistry course usually taken during the first college year. The goal is that students will take the AP Exam in May to try and receive college credit for their work in this course – Passing AP Chemistry exam scores can earn up to two semesters of credit and lab credit depending on the college!
- Students will study six big ideas in the AP Chemistry course. They will immerse themselves in studying the structure of matter, bonding and intermolecular forces, chemical reactions, kinetics, thermodynamics, and chemical equilibrium.
- Students who take this course with this curriculum framework will develop a vast and deep understanding of the concepts within these big ideas through the application of science practices in the required lab component of the course. Students will complete many hands-on lab investigations through out the course to support the learning objectives in the curriculum framework. The results will be readiness for the study of advanced topics in subsequent college courses!! ☺

## why take this AP course...

- With the continuously increasing need for innovators, problem solvers, problem finders, and designers of materials, pharmaceuticals, and new fuels, comes the need for individuals skilled in the science practices and knowledgeable about chemistry.
- The AP Chemistry course provides students with training for such knowledge and skills through guided inquiry labs, a focused curriculum on content relevant to today's problems, and an exam that assess students' mental models of the particulate nature of matter instead of memorization of rules to understand chemistry.

## costs and savings breakdown for students...

- Because we are a part of the NMSI program at our school, there are some financial incentives to take, and do well, in some AP courses – this is one of them!
  - NMSI program will subsidize the exam fee 50% to save you some money!
  - Students have the opportunity to make \$100 if they pass the AP Exam – a score of 3 or higher

## frequently asked questions...

- What are the prerequisites to take AP Chemistry?
  - You have to have already taken general/first year chemistry and algebra two to sign up for AP Chemistry.
- Is it hard?
  - It is an AP level course. It is an AP course that can potentially grant you two semesters of college credit. It is meant to challenge and push you academically – but if you are up for a challenge you will learn a lot!
- Who should take AP Chemistry?
  - Anyone who has completed all prerequisites and is interesting in science! Anyone who has aspirations in the medical field, engineering, chemistry, or other science fields should take AP Chemistry in high school before taking chemistry in college. Any up for a challenge with a love for science, math and experiments!
- Is there extra help available?
  - YES! ALWAYS! If you ask for help, you will get help! Make an appointment with the teacher, come during one lunch, stay after school, and come to Saturday sessions! You can always get help whenever you need it!

## student testimonials...

- “I took AP Chemistry my senior year in high school – it was a tough course, and I worked really hard. I scored a two on the exam, and was really upset with the score at first. However, my first semester at JMU I had to take chemistry, and I easily earned an A! I really want to be a nurse, and I am so glad that I took AP chem in high school – it pushed me, I became a better student, and I did so well in college chemistry! Any one who wants to go into the medical field should take this class while they can in high school, you will do so much better in college regardless of what your AP score is!” -Class of 2015 Student
- “I grew so much as a student by taking AP Chemistry. It was challenging at first – but I quickly realized that I needed to put more time into the class and I would get more out of. Going to tutoring and extra help when I needed it brought my test grades up by 15%! I learned how to manage my time better and I also learned how important it is to turn work in on time. I learned skills that I will be able to use in all of my college level classes in the future and I am glad I had the experience with this in high school!” – Class of 2016 Student
- “Best class I took to help me prepare for what college level classes are like. I had an easy first year in college and I think this class helped a lot with that!” – Class of 2015 Student