

Dear Chemistry Parents & Students,

This email contains important information for CCS Chemistry so please be sure to read it carefully and save it for future reference.

General Info

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Website: <http://cottageschoolchemistry.weebly.com>

Books and Materials

Students need to purchase or obtain the following for class:

1. Pearson Chemistry Textbook (ISBN: 0-13-252576-3)
2. Three ring binder with dividers for: a) Course Plan, b) Quizzes/Exams, c) Notes, d) Labs
3. Scientific Calculator (does not need a graphing capability)

I am providing the following materials for each student:

1. Kolbe Course Plan
2. Lab Report Writing Guide
3. Periodic Table
4. Significant Figures Reference Guide
5. Answer Key
6. Virtual Lab (VL) License Key

These materials (except the VL License) are ready to go and you may pick them up from me when you attend the BTS meetings in August. If you want your materials sooner, you may contact me to arrange to pick them up from my house.

The Virtual Lab licenses will not be ready until late July or early August, but that shouldn't matter as there is nothing to physically distribute, just a link and license code which I will email to you with further instructions.

Website

I will use the CCS Chemistry Website for almost all communications. The address is: www.cottageschoolchemistry.weebly.com . Feel free to explore it now. You will find lots of pertinent information including the syllabus for the class.

Video Conferencing

As you know, CCS Chemistry meets in person on Fridays at Grace Community Church. However, if for any reason (including snow days) class cannot meet in person, I will still hold class via Zoom Conference Call at the same day / time we usually meet. My plan is to stay on track no matter what! :-)

Also, students are welcome to join an optional Zoom video call each Tuesday at 3pm for help with chemistry. I will not be introducing new material, but will be available to answer questions or help with homework. I ask that students RSVP (by that Tuesday at 2 p.m.) if they plan to attend. RSVP form can be found and submitted at the website.

Summer Assignment

Details for the summer assignment can be found at the website, however, the assignment is simply to complete Week 1 of our Course Plan. It covers chapters 1 and 2, but these are primarily physical science review, and I don't anticipate that it will be too difficult for the students.

I know many parents (and most students) dislike the idea of summer work, but for an upper level science course following the once-a-week CCS format, it's almost unavoidable. My primary purposes in assigning summer work are to 1) have the students become familiar with the course format and materials; 2) review key concepts from physical science; 3) do the introductory Lab Safety virtual lab to make sure all technological kinks are ironed out; and 4) ensure that we can complete most of the course this year. Kolbe's semesters are based on 18 weeks, whereas CCS has 16 week semesters so I've had to compress the course a bit, and we will need to be able to hit the ground running. Summer work helps us to do that, so I appreciate your diligence in making sure to complete the assignment before we begin in September.

Homework and Tests

I expect that homework will take between 4 and 5 hours each week. In addition to doing the homework, students or parents are *expected to correct the homework using the provided answer key*, as we will not have time to review all of it in class. I leave it to the discretion of parents to decide whether to retain the answer key and correct the work or to let the student correct themselves using the key. Since the goal of this process is to learn from one's mistakes, each family must decide the best method to accomplish the goal. You know your student best!

One caution - It is inadvisable to do all homework the night before it is due. By spreading the workload over the whole week, students retain information much better and are more successful. Students who try to do a week's worth of chemistry homework after a full day of Thursday CCS classes are setting themselves up for failure. PARENTS - Please encourage your students to avoid this bad habit!

There are six exams, three per semester. Most exams (though not all) will be preceded by a week of review to help prepare students. There will be no cumulative midterm or final exam as we simply don't have time. There may occasionally be announced or unannounced in-class quizzes.

Grading

At the end of the school year, students will receive a grade report showing their scores on tests and labs. It will be up to the parent to assign the final class grade based on these scores and any other factors they wish to include.

Labs

All labs will be performed using the Virtual Lab software. Lab reports will be due the week after the lab is assigned. Most lab reports will be informal, but students are required to write one formal lab report each semester. We will discuss in class the difference between formal and informal and more information about labs in general can be found in the Lab Report Writing Guide that I am providing.

Action Items

I need the following from each family:

- 1) If you would like me to add your student's email address to my chemistry email group, please reply with that information. If you do this, I will still send all communications to the parent email, but your student will also receive communications at their own address.
- 2) Please also indicate what email address you want to use for the Virtual Labs. It can be the parent or student email, but whatever you choose will be used as the student's ID and login for the school year.

Thank you for your careful attention to all the details. I'm very much looking forward to this class and meeting all my new students. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Mrs. Wright