

**Accelerated Chemistry Course Syllabus**  
**2023-2024 School Year**  
**Mr. Matt Geistfeld**

**Contact Information:**

Email: Matthew.Geistfeld@k12.sd.us  
Class Website: mrgeistfeld.weebly.com  
Phone: (605) 362-2860  
Remind App: \*See "Class Information" on class website for your period's Remind code.

**Accelerated Chemistry Course Description:**

Accelerated Chemistry is a science course intended for science & math augmented-minded 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. Chemistry is the study of the properties of matter, the small particles of which matter is composed, and the energy changes associated with these interactions. Chemical principles include fundamental concepts about atoms and molecules, elements and compounds, the periodic table, bonding, chemical reactions and equations, stoichiometry, states of matter, solutions, acids and bases, pH, energy transfer, and reaction rates. The Accelerated Chemistry course relates concepts to everyday life as best as possible so students will better understand the material, and it includes lab experimentation to help illustrate challenging concepts.

**Purpose Statement:**

Accelerated Chemistry students will learn problem-solving skills, study skills, and lab skills that will better prepare them to succeed in college science courses. Accelerated Chemistry prepares students to later take Physics, A.P. Physics 1, A.P. Chemistry, A.P. Biology, Anatomy and Physiology, or Environmental Science at Roosevelt High School. It will especially help students who are considering a science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or related career.

**Prerequisites:**

Students should have completed and passed Algebra I and Biology with "B" or better. Passing grades lower than this are accepted, but students may want to prepare in advance for a faster paced class or to come in outside of their normal class period for extra practice. Sessions before school, after school, during Ad-Room and science study halls are provided for students who would like to work on extra practice or remediation.

**Course Materials:**

We will use Inspire Chemistry from McGraw-Hill as our course text. Online texts will be made available to students, but hardcopies of the texts are also available upon request. You will also need access to a scientific calculator. If a calculator has the following functions, log, sin, cos, and tan, it will work as a scientific calculator. There will be scientific calculators provided in class, but I will also show where students can access these functions online later in the semester if needed.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

This course is evaluated on a points-based system. Semester marking points are weighted as follows:

**20 % - Daily Work (Homework, Classwork, and Lab Assignments)**

These assignments may include online daily work assignments, in-class activities, laboratory & mini-laboratory lab analysis, writing assignments, discussion activities, and video reports. Formative assessments will emphasize the knowledge and problem-solving skills acquired from completing these assignments. Failure to complete these assignments will result in students missing important assessment materials that will be recurring conceptual themes throughout each semester.

## 80 % - Formative Assessments (Chemistry Crucibles, Quizzes & Lab Practicals)

There will be four to five cumulative assessments (Chemistry Crucibles) per semester, as well as three to four quizzes per unit topic that will be assessed during a Chemistry Crucible.

### Chemistry Crucibles -

Chemistry Crucibles will contain cumulative assessment questions from each previous Chemistry Crucible. The Chemistry Crucibles will occur during a single class period, and extra time will not be permitted if a student does not finish. Chemistry Crucible formative assessments will always contain more obtainable points than the assessment is worth. For example, each Chemistry Crucible will always be graded out of 75 possible points, but there are usually between 87 – 95 possible points to earn, allowing for students to still receive an overall “A” score and not completing the entirety of the assessment or knowing all content found on the assessment. Students will be required to master conceptual topics from a unit as they will be constantly reinforced throughout the semester in both daily work and formative assessments.

At the end of each semester, there will be a district semester test over the Chemistry High School standards covered. Each semester test will be worth 15% of the overall semester grade and will cover the entirety of the standards covered during the semester. These percentages and assessments are duplicated for the second semester, although the district standards will differ.

The following grading scale is used. A student must earn at least 60.0% in order to pass the class. Due to the nature of the grading scale, district grading percentages do not round up to nearest whole numbers.

+100% - 90%	A
89% - 80%	B
79% - 70%	C
69% - 60%	D
0% - 59%	F

### Remediation & Extra Credit

Test retakes and quiz retakes will not be provided. Students can gain remediation over topics during offered times outside of the normal class period. By completing remediation opportunities, students will then participate in the following cumulative Chemistry Crucible where they will be able to earn back extra credit points. Every online daily work assignment contains extra credit opportunities, but these opportunities disappear if students do not complete them by the assigned date. Each semester also contains extra practice assignments for students to choose to complete. Alternatively, at the end of each mid-term, students will be allowed to drop one daily assignment/lab and one quiz score. Only assignments and labs that were completed by the required date can be dropped, late assignments will be ineligible.

### Assignment Policy:

Each assignment should be turned in on the day it is due. Online submissions will always be accepted until the change of the calendar date. Online assignments will be closed after the due date has been passed and students will no longer be able to make submissions. To recover missing points from late assignments, students can utilize the extra credit sections of future daily work assignments, or participate in an extra credit project later in the semester. Practice assignments for the missing content will still be available for students who did not complete an assignment on time.

Lab work and classwork activities will receive a 25% deduction if they are turned in **before** graded assignments have been returned to the class. This deduction will increase to 50% if they are turned in **after** assignments have been turned to the class. Assignments that are more than two weeks old will no longer be accepted.

### Make-Up Work:

For every day that a student is absent, students will be given one day to complete make-up assignments completed in class. Online assignments will still be due as students do not need to be in class to complete these short assignments. Students will have **one week** from an absence to complete a missed lab, quiz, or Chemistry

Crucible. If students fail to adequately make arrangements in this time period, a score of zero will be given. Please make arrangements with Mr. Geistfeld to complete missed assessments and labs before or after school, or during a period such as SRP or Ad-Room.

#### **If You Need Assistance:**

- If you think there is something that will help you or your student be successful, please inform Mr. Geistfeld
- Make an appointment with your teacher, he is available before / after school, during Ad-Room & SRP.
- There are tutoring opportunities provided by different groups. Please inquire more if you are interested.

#### **Classroom Expectations:**

- Students will come to class prepared to learn. Bring your materials to class every day!
- Students will take notes and actively participate in classroom activities.
- Students will respect the teacher, classmates, and visiting staff members.
- Students will respect school property and the property of others.  
For example, please do not sit on any desks or lab tables or mess around with lab equipment.
- Students will know the safety rules and work safely in the laboratory.
- Students will use the drinking fountain and bathroom between classes or during work time.
- Students will read and follow the rules described in the student handbook.
- Students will be honest when taking tests.  
Any student suspected of cheating or assisting another student in cheating will receive a zero and will not be allowed to retake the test. With the exception of a scientific calculator, no electronic devices (cell phones, smart phones, iPods, laptops, or similar devices) may be used during tests.
- Students will not use technology, including laptops, Chrome books, cell phones, smart phones, iPods, and similar devices, without permission.
- Students will keep noise levels within acceptable limits during labs for safety reasons.

*Failure to "live up" to these expectations may result in verbal warnings, phone calls home, conferences with a parent or guardian, grade reduction for specific assignments (labs), detention before or after school with the teacher, or referral to the assistant principal depending upon the nature and severity of a student's offenses.*

#### **Classroom Procedures:**

- Seating Chart: Each class has a seating chart. You are expected to sit in your assigned seat every day.
- Tardiness: Arrive to class and be prepared to work on provided work before the bell rings.
- Cell Phones & Tech: Unless otherwise instructed, cell phones, smart phones, and ear buds should not be used (or visible) during class. District policy measures will be taken if technology become a distractive issue.
- Dismissal: The bell does not dismiss you at the end of class. I will dismiss you. Remain in your seat to learn!
- In the Hall: Expectations for students who are in the hall remain the same if you leave for any reason.
- Course Assistance: Utilize times set aside before or after school, or during Ad-Room & SRP periods

#### **Online Class Access:**

Please visit the website below if you would like to have an online access to the materials we will be covering in class. Please note, due to unexpected events and other time constraints, the calendar provided may be updated at future dates and that dates that are more than two weeks in advance may not match up to the exact dates shown. Mr. Geistfeld will update this calendar as needed and in as fast a time period as possible.