

CHEMISTRY UPDATE

October 1, 2007

The first few weeks of school have sure flown by quickly! I have been enjoying the chance to get to know your children better, and once again, am very impressed with our R-P kids.

CHEMISTRY AND HONORS CHEMISTRY

These classes have been working hard at "learning the language of chemistry." The unit, called "Nomenclature," has the students practicing writing and naming compounds. To help the students prepare for their test over this unit, I have posted 3 practice tests and their solution guides on the web page. Please encourage your child to use this resource to better prepare themselves for the test.

In our next unit, "Chemical Quantities - The Mole," the two levels of chemistry will begin to separate more. The degree of math will be different, and the laboratory requirements will change. The Nomenclature unit is such a foundation, there is very little difference in requirement for the two levels.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CHEMISTRY

In this class, the students have been working with aqueous reactions, including precipitation reactions, acid-base, and redox. They have experienced their first Virtual Chem Lab assignment, as well as wet-labs. This unit will be wrapping up by the end of this week, and we will begin the unit on Thermochemistry. The assignment sheet and solution guide have already been posted for the next chapter on the web site.

I would encourage you to check in with your student and see how they are handling the level of commitment with this class. The solution guides have been posted for homework to ensure that they are practicing correctly, and to help with the pace of the class. However, if your child is misusing them, their performance on the tests will almost certainly be low. Help me encourage your child in making a nightly commitment to studying chemistry, and we will all enjoy the rewards come May when they take the AP test.

One other piece of advice: I recommend getting your child an AP Chem Review Book for the AP Exam and encourage them to study it all year. There are several good ones out there. I purchase from Kaplan, Barrons, Cliffs, and Flinn. Perform a search at Amazon or Barnes and Nobles, and you will see many to choose from. This one tool has made the difference for kids in the past between passing and failing the AP Exam in May.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions!

Sincerely,

MRS. LINDA HANSON

Linda Hanson - Reeths-Puffer High School - Muskegon, MI

Parent Update Newsletter

October 2007, December 2007 & January 2008

Linda Hanson uses her website to keep parents informed of what is happening in her class. Here are just three examples of her parent communication.

Chemistry Website

www.reeths-puffer.org

Reeths-Puffer High School

Muskegon, Michigan



SEASON'S GREETINGS!

Chemistry Update:

We have been working hard on wrapping up our Chemical Reactions Unit before Christmas Break. The grades for the first round of testing have been entered, and the students who wish to earn a second opportunity to test will be doing so this Friday, December 21, during class. Please encourage your child to continue to work hard to improve their grades.

We will also start our next unit, Stoichiometry, before Christmas Break. The students will not be having an in-class assessment on this unit, but the topic will appear on the January Exam. The students have been given their new notepack and Practice Test A for this topic already.

Our January Exam will have a total of 20 objectives. The students will have two opportunities for this exam, similar to our testing cycle. We will take Round 1 of the exam at the end of the first week of class when we come back after break, divided over the course of 2 days. The students will then work on corrections and Practice Test B, in preparation for their exam day. On the actual exam day, the students will only retest those objectives they did not pass the first time, along with a vocabulary section.

HONORS CHEMISTRY

The pace of honors chemistry is going to increase dramatically, separating even more from the regular chemistry sections. The math of our current unit will be quite different from the regular chemistry course, as well. I encourage you to have a discussion with your child to see if they feel they are appropriately placed. If they are struggling with the honors section, perhaps the regular chemistry course would be a better fit. Have them talk to a counselor, or to me, if they are unsure of what to do next semester.

AP CHEMISTRY

I am so proud of our kids! They have been working so hard on several chapters at a very quick pace. We do not have any test scheduled in-class before semester ends, but there is a Christmas Break Cumulative Review take-home test for the students to be working on. This will be due the day they get back from break. Please encourage your child to do a little bit each day, and not to try to cram it into the night before school starts again! We will have covered 11 chapters by the end of first semester, and this review packet is designed to help the students begin their exam review process early.

PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT ME IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS. I HAVE REALLY BEEN BLESSED WITH A GREAT GROUP OF KIDS AND WANT THE BEST FOR ALL OF THEM.

HAVE A SAFE AND PEACEFUL HOLIDAY BREAK!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Hanson