

Cosby High School Chemistry I Syllabus

2025-2026

Meghan Smith, Instructor, megsmith@cocke.k12.tn.us

Welcome to Chemistry!

I. Course Description

Chemistry is a required course for graduation in the state of Tennessee. This introductory course will cover a broad range of topics under the umbrella of chemistry, starting with more introductory level material and working through more complex topics. Chemistry is a fascinating and broad branch of science that helps us understand the world around us. Upon completion of this course, students will better understand the periodic table and the elements therein, how they interact with one another, how those interactions occur, and why it is important.

CHEMISTRY I: TN ACADEMIC STANDARDS: [New 10-28-22 Science Standards.pdf](#)

II. Instruction

Topics Covered:

- Matter and Its Interactions
 - Structure and properties of matter
 - Chemical reactions
 - Nuclear process
- Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions
- Energy
 - Definitions of energy
 - Conservation of energy and energy transfer
 - Relationship between energy and forces
 - Energy in chemical processes and everyday life
- Waves and Their Applications in Technologies for Information Transfer

Pacing Guide: Developing for 2026-2027 school year.

Materials: (Students must acquire these materials within one week of starting class.)

- Large binder (1.5")
- Notebook paper (college ruled)
- Pencil/pen (black or blue ink only)
- All other materials for any assignments or experiments will be provided.

Resources:

- Textbook: SAVVAS Experience Chemistry
- Flubber (1997)
- The Martian (2015)

- Lorax (2012)

Intervention Offered:

I am willing to provide extra aid, practice, and tutoring. I must be contacted at least two days in advance to coordinate the time, place, and depth of help desired.

III. Assessment:

Grades: Grades are posted in ASPEN weekly.

- In-class assignments/ Homework
- Labs
- Quizzes
- Exams/Projects
- Final Exam

Grading Scale:

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = 0-60

Absent Work:

It is the responsibility of the student to make up any missed assignments, tests, etc. Students will have a minimum of 5 days to get make-up work turned in. Students may discuss make up work with me before or after class, or via email. I will not be reaching out or reminding students about their work.

Late Work:

This is a fast-paced class, and it is important to keep up with work as it comes. All assignments should be handed in by the due date. Assignments not handed in within 5 days of the due date will receive an automatic zero.

IV. General Expectations of Students:

Class Rules:

- Be courteous and respectful of others.
- Be on time, prepared, and willing to try.
- Complete each assignment given as directed.
- No snacks, vapes, or drinks etc.

- No heavily scented perfumes, colognes, sanitizers, lotions, etc.
- No hats, hoods, blankets are to be worn or used in the chemistry classroom.

Safety Procedures:

Students will participate in labs and experiments while following all necessary safety precautions.

- **Follow any and all safety procedures exactly as given.**
- **Chemical and glassware cabinets are off limits to students.**

Attendance Policy:

This class will likely be first time exposure to a majority of the material for most students. Consistent attendance is crucial to success. Class will begin as soon as the tardy bell rings and end with the dismissal bell. Please make sure that you are in your seat and ready to begin when the tardy bell rings. *If a student misses fewer than three days of class for the semester, they will be automatically exempt from the midterm or final.*

Tardy Policy:

You will be counted tardy if you are not in the classroom, seated, with all materials when the tardy bell rings. 3 tardies will equal an absence and will count against you for the exam incentive policy.

Cell Phone/communication device Policy:

School board policy will be followed regarding all communication devices.

- 1st offense: Device will be confiscated, sent to the office and may only be retrieved once a guardian has been contacted and permits it.
- 2nd offense: Guardian will be required to come pick up the device from the office themselves.
- 3rd offense: Considered insubordinate, and administration will discuss further punishment.

Leaving Class:

Students must have teacher permission to leave the classroom for any reason at all. Use the restroom between classes to avoid wasting classroom time.

Honor Code:

Academic honesty is vital and nonnegotiable. Students will complete their own assignments, quizzes and tests. Cheating, including but not limited to, copying others' work, use of AI or apps, plagiarism, etc.

Seating:

Seating will be assigned. If the seating arrangement leads to disruptive or unruly behavior/environment, seating will be changed as needed.

Rewards: Varied and class specific.

V. General Expectations of Teacher:

Communication:

Email: megsmith@cocke.k12.tn.us

I can also be reached through the Parent Square App.

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8:00am-3:45pm

If students or parents have concerns about progress or difficulties with class, please feel free to contact me at any time.

It is important that I am made aware if the needs of a student are not being met. I am more than happy to help in any way I can, but I cannot do so without being properly informed when situations arise. I am happy to accommodate hearing or visual impairments, seating arrangements, or any other situation that takes away from the student's ability to learn and succeed in the classroom.

If you or anyone you know is in need of something, just let me know and I will provide what I can, no questions asked. I am not allowed to provide any medicated items, including but not limited to Tylenol, Ibuprofen, cough drops, Midol, antihistamines, etc.

VI. Plagiarism

According to Harbrace Handbook, 15th edition: Plagiarism is defined as "presenting someone else's ideas, research, or opinions as your own without proper documentation, even if it has been rephrased."

This includes but is not limited to:

- Copying verbatim all or part of another's written work;
- Using phrases, figures, or illustrations without citing the source;
- Paraphrasing ideas, conclusions, or research without citing the source;
- Using all or part of a literary plot, poem, or film without attributing the work to its creator.
- Use of Generative AI (such as ChatGPT, Gemini, or other apps) to create, paraphrase, or summarize content without explicit teacher permission and proper citation is considered plagiarism.

Consequences of Plagiarism

- Plagiarism is a form of stealing and academic fraud. Students who are found guilty of plagiarism have the option of either redoing the assignment within a specified time period and accept a letter drop or taking a zero on the assignment. Parents are to be involved in making this decision.

VII. Religion in the Classroom

The Board affirms that it is essential that the teaching about religion - and not of a religion be conducted in a factual, objective, and respectful manner in accordance with the following guidelines:

Cocke County School Board Policy 4.804 states:

Educational content which consists of religious themes shall be presented in a factual, objective, and respectful manner in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Religious themes may be a part of the curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs provided it is essential to the learning experience in the various fields of study and is presented objectively;
2. The inclusion of religion shall be for educational purposes only;¹
3. The emphasis on religious themes should be only as extensive as necessary for a balanced and comprehensive study of the curriculum. Such studies shall never be used to proselytize, establish, foster, or demean any particular religion, religious tenets, or beliefs; and¹
4. Student-initiated expressions to questions or assignments which reflect their beliefs or non-beliefs about a religious theme shall be accommodated.