



A Classical Education for the Modern World

Tuesday, September 1, 2020

Re: in-person Chemistry laboratory classes, Fall 2020

Dear parent/guardian,

You are receiving this letter because your son/daughter is taking AP Chemistry this school year, and we wish to inform you about our plans to run a small part of this course in-person in the school's Chemistry laboratory (Room 226). ***We are seeking your consent for your son/daughter to participate in this part of the course.***

Laboratory-based practical work is a key part of the study of Chemistry, and allowing students to gain key skills in this area is one of our course objectives. Furthermore, 20% of the AP examination is designed specifically to test laboratory skills. The nature of the chemicals and equipment involved means that this experience simply cannot be replicated at home or in a virtual setting, and we have therefore decided to deliver the Thursday lesson in-person (in Room 226) every other week, if at least eight students are able to participate.

The remaining lessons will be virtual and will be delivered in line with the rest of the virtual curriculum. A two-week lesson cycle would thus consist of three 90-minute virtual synchronous lessons (Mondays, every other Thursday), one 90-minute in-person laboratory lesson (every other Thursday) and two 30-minute asynchronous lessons (Wednesdays). We are planning to run the Q1 lab sessions on 9/10, 9/24, 10/8 and 10/22.

In order to make this possible, a number of health and safety protocols will be in place, the details of which are attached. These laboratory protocols are in addition to our campus-wide safety protocols that all members of our community are required to follow, including:

- ***Confirming health before coming to campus:*** All students and faculty must to enter their health data into the HealthCheck app every school day before coming to campus (training on the app will be provided this Friday to this group of parents). The school may perform additional health checks, such as taking temperatures, before building entry is allowed.
- ***Limiting contact on campus:*** All students and faculty are required to wear face masks, wash hands frequently, and maintaining distance on school grounds.
- ***Staying home following exposure or when ill:*** Latin students and faculty will follow school policy regarding staying home when sick or to possible COVID exposure until cleared by the Washington Latin School nurse.

If, despite these protocols, you do not feel comfortable with your son/daughter taking part in these classes, s/he will be allowed to attend virtually and will be partnered with two students who are in the laboratory. ***Please note that electing to participate virtually in the lab portion of Chemistry will not have a negative impact on a student's grade.***

Please read the attached laboratory safety protocols and then complete the google survey below.

[Parent Survey - In-Person Chemistry Lab Classes](#)

Please respond no later than 5 pm on Friday, September 4th.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding during these challenging times.



Diana Smith
Principal



Luke Edwards-Stuart
Chemistry Department



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CHEMISTRY LABORATORY SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR FALL 2020

A: Temporary protocols in place to limit the spread of COVID-19

1. Each class (pod) will contain a maximum of ten students plus a maximum of two adults.
2. The student composition of each pod will not change for the entire quarter, and will be the same as any pods in place for other subjects.
3. Entrance and exit from the class will be managed in such a way that students do not come into contact with other students who may also be in the building.
4. Students will work in groups of two (ie in five different pairs); each student will always have the same partner; each pair will have their own allocated workstation which will have all the materials they need, including a sink and soap; the workstations will be at least six feet apart.
5. Students and adults must wear protective clothing which ensures that both nose and mouth are covered at all times.
6. The different pairs must remain socially distant from each other and from the adults – they should not leave their workstations unless it is absolutely necessary to do so.
7. Members of the same pair should avoid direct contact with each other and remain three feet apart where possible.
8. The adults will remain six feet from each group unless a student's safety is at risk.
9. The ventilation will be on and all windows will be open unless weather conditions make this unfeasible, in which case the door will be open.
10. Each student will be provided with their own pair of safety glasses, which they will bring to each class.
11. Students will have access to disposable gloves, which they may use unless heating apparatus are being used.

Failure to follow these protocols will result in the student being required to attend the labs virtually.

B: Standard laboratory protocols (permanent)

B1. Clothing

1. Each student will be provided with an apron, which must be worn at all times.
2. Students must wear eye protection at all times.
3. Students should wear casual clothing which must cover all parts of the body; no skin should be exposed except the arms and neck; closed footwear is required and footwear must not be removed.
4. Long hair must be tied back.

B2. Behavior

5. Students must follow all instructions, and only those instructions, on the and those verbally given by the teacher.
6. Students should read each instruction before carrying it out.
7. Students should treat all chemicals and glassware with respect, care and attention, making their best effort to avoid breakages of glassware and spillages of chemicals.
8. Students should not interfere with the lab work of students who are not in their assigned group.
9. Students should not eat or drink during lab work and should ensure that no food or drink is open or visible.
10. Bags must be placed on the floor, under desks.
11. Students should not run.
12. Students should not engage in any physical contact with other students.
13. Students should either stand or sit on a chair, and not sit on the floor, tables or benches.
14. Students should always remain with your group unless conducting a specific task which requires them to be elsewhere.

B3. Communication

15. Students should always tell their assigned group partners what they are doing.
16. Students should always ask the teacher if they are unsure what to do.

17. Students should always tell the teacher if you break glassware or equipment or spill any chemicals.
18. Students should ensure that beakers and other glassware containing chemicals are always labelled.

Failure to follow these protocols may result in the student being required to attend the labs virtually.