



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 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. Students also enjoy these lessons very much. 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 thus cannot provide students with a complete Chemistry experience without delivering some of the classes in-person.

The majority of lessons will be virtual and will be delivered in line with the rest of the virtual curriculum. But we intend to give every student the opportunity to attend one synchronous 90-minute lesson every two weeks in the laboratory instead of in the virtual classroom. A two-week lesson cycle would thus consist of:

- three 90-minute virtual synchronous lessons (course weighting 70%)
- one 90-minute in-person laboratory lesson (course weighting 20%)
- two 30-minute asynchronous lessons (course weighting 10%)

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.***

For logistical reasons, it is not possible to deliver all of these lessons in the time slots allocated to Chemistry in the regular schedule. So some of the laboratory lessons will be delivered after regular school hours, during one of the following time-slots:

Mondays	Tuesdays	Thursdays	Fridays
	1.00 – 2.30 pm (Eta)		1.00 – 2.30 pm (Alpha)
2.45 – 4.15 pm (Zeta)	2.45 – 4.15 pm		2.45 – 4.15 pm
4.30 – 6.00 pm	4.30 – 6.00 pm	4.30 – 6.00 pm	

Please note that students can only attend the sessions coinciding with Alpha, Zeta or Eta periods if they either have Chemistry or a study hall during that period.

Each student will attend once per fortnight only, and this lesson will replace one lesson per fortnight in their regular schedule. Once the student is allocated a session, it cannot be changed until the end of the quarter.

Please read the attached safety protocols and then complete the google survey below, which includes an option to choose a time slot.

[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



Troy Zinck
Chemistry Department