

NOVATO HIGH SCHOOL

Novato Unified School District
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Rey A. Mayoral, Principal
Lori O'Connor, Rob Celli, Ella Steinberg Assistant Principals

Shalee Cunningham
Superintendent

To the Future Honors Chemistry Student,

Welcome to Honors Chemistry for the 2014-2015 school year. You have taken an important step in the process of expanding your choices for your future. This fast paced math intensive course is an excellent prep for high school AP courses as well as college science. Students enrolled in this course are expected to be more independent workers and thinkers than students in the traditional chemistry course. You will need to show initiative and the ability to critically analyze information as well as situations. For most of you, this will be your most challenging course next year.

To help prepare you for this course, this summer you will need to design and conduct an experiment that shows you understand the scientific method. This assignment is to help show you how important the process of inquiry is in science. It also helps give me some insight into how you think. Please follow the directions below and put together your best work. You should focus on creating an original experiment of something that you are interested in. I am more interested in seeing you be creative and thoughtful with your experiment than seeing a project that has already been proven to work. This project will also serve as a measure of your commitment to this class. Poor planning, effort and follow through could jeopardize your enrollment in the class next year. Please plan ahead and do not leave this assignment until the last week before we return. I will be unavailable the two weeks before school starts for questions regarding this project.

Assignment: Design and carryout a scientific experiment. Use your curiosity about the world around you to think of a question that you would like to answer. (i.e. How many licks does it take to get to the center of a tootsie pop? Why does grass grow faster in the summer?) You will need to conduct this experiment over the summer and write up the results in a formal laboratory report. The formal laboratory report does not need to be extremely wordy, but it does need to cover all of the important information that relates to the experiment. This includes your insight and observations along each process of the experiment.

A formal lab report should include the following:

Your **observations** that led you to this experiment, the **question** that those observations led you to ask, your testable **hypothesis** as to what the data will show, the experimental design or **procedure** that you used to test your hypothesis, your **results** of your experiment, and your **conclusions** from those results about your original question.

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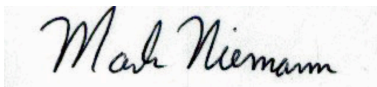
<http://www.nusd.org>

You will also need to be prepared to present your results and conclusions to the class on the first day back. You will only have between two and three minutes to explain your experiment to the class, and share your results. In this time you will need to explain the basic nature of your experiment and present the data that supports your conclusion(s).

Below you will find the contact information for both Mr. Louie and Mr. Niemann. Please hold on to this information. We will be out of phone and email contact for a few weeks this summer. Please contact us early if you have questions and be patient, it may take us several days to respond.

You also need to visit my website and fill out the form that records your contact information so that we know how to contact you over the summer. By filling out that form and leaving a digital signature, you and your parents are indicating your understanding of the rigorous demands of the yearlong course, your commitment to continue your education beyond high school at an institute of higher learning.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to let us know.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Niemann". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' and 'N'.

Mark Niemann
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(415) 789-6436
<http://mrniemann.weebly.com/summer-assignment.html>

Mr. Louie
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