

# STAA Class Description 2023-2024

Course Title: General Chemistry with Lab (with Honors/AP Option)

Teacher: Crispin Piazza

Grades: 9th-12th

Meeting Day(s): M (virtual),  
Th (in-person) Time(s): M (8-9 am),  
Th (8-9:30 am)

Student minimum required for this course: 6 Maximum accepted 12

## Course Description including any prerequisites or other requirements:

This high school chemistry course will introduce students to a variety of chemical principles and how they apply to the world around them. We will be using Apologia's Exploring Creation with Chemistry as our spine. We will spend between one and two weeks per module with concepts being introduced and discussed during Monday's virtual class. The laboratory component of the course will be held during the 1.5 hour in-person Thursday class for a total of 36 hours and will be structured around the conceptual topics covered and outlined in the Apologia text. Students will be required to complete a lab report each week. Co-op off weeks will be used for review and testing. Tests will be completed at home and will be based on the honor system (no open book tests unless directed otherwise). Periodically students will be asked to read current scientific journals as they pertain to chemistry and global events. Algebra 1 is a prerequisite for this course.

## Costs

- Total Tuition: \$600 for the year; this includes \$100 lab fee per year
  - **Payment Option 1:** Full amount of \$600 to be paid on July 1st.
  - **Payment Option 2:** Split amount of \$300 as two payments due on July 1<sup>st</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>
- Venmo information: @Crispin-Piazza (Venmo is the preferred payment method)
- Checks made out to: Crispin Piazza  
and mailed to: 1029 19th Ave South Birmingham, AL 35205

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## Student Responsibilities and Expectations

Students are responsible for attending both the virtual and in-person classes each week, coming to class prepared (having completed the assignments), turning assignments in using Google classroom and having an attitude ready to learn.

## Grading Breakdown

Tests 50%  
Lab Reports 20%  
Homework 20%  
Reading assignments 10%

## Textbooks and Supplies Required

Apologia Exploring Creation with Chemistry, 3rd Edition  
Apologia Exploring Creation with Chemistry, Student Notebook

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## Teacher Biography

Crispin earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering with a minor in Marine Science from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. She worked for ten years as a project engineer for a design build engineering company in various industries (pharma, pulp and paper, biofuels) before deciding to homeschool her children. She and her husband Micah have four amazing boys (12, 7, 6, and 5 months) and are members of the Cathedral of Saint Paul.

## Teacher Contact Information

cbpiazza@gmail.com  
205-292-2148

## Additional Information

Please send me a quick email before class starts and let me know the following about your student:

1. If your student has an interest in pursuing a career in a STEM field or even a desire to take an AP test.
2. What is your child's learning style? Not sure? Take this quick questionnaire. <https://vark-learn.com/the-vark-questionnaire/the-vark-questionnaire-for-younger-people/>

More information about how Google Classroom will work is forthcoming.