

Orange County American Chemical Society Education Committee



Dear Fellow Chemistry Teacher,

October 2008

Welcome to another year of chemical education! A variety of activities are available this year, and we hope many of you teachers and your students will participate. More information about test registration and banquet reservations will be sent in February and April. **Check OCACS website** www.OCACS.org

National Chemistry Week "Having a Ball with Chemistry" (Sports) 10 college chemistry groups do "hands-on" chemistry with children	Sunday, October 12, 2008 Santa Ana Zoo 10:00-3:00
Orange County Science Education Association Fall Conference	Saturday, November 15, 2008 Chapman University 8:30-4:30
Chemistry Olympiad Regional Exam AP Chemistry HS students compete, max. 4/school (Top 11 are banquet guests in May)	Saturday, March 28, 2009 Santa Ana College 9:00-12:00
Orange County Science & Engineering Fair Junior and Senior High Divisions	Wednesday, April 15, 2009 Orange County Fairgrounds 9:00-3:00
College Awards Dinner Honoring outstanding college students of 17 local colleges	Thursday April 16, 2009 Chapman University, Orange
Chemistry Olympiad, Final Regional Exam Top 11 from 3/28 test compete, written + lab (Top 11 are banquet guests in May)	Saturday, April 25, 2009 Santa Ana College 9:00-3:00
First Year High School Chemistry Exam Max. 8 per school; (top student from each school will be a guest at Awards Banquet in May)	Saturday, April 25, 2009 Cal State Fullerton 9:00-11:15 (Registration 8:45)
High School Awards Dinner, honoring First Year, AP Olympiad, and Science Fair winners	Thursday, May 28, 2009 Concordia University Irvine

Please post this calendar in your department as a reminder of these dates.

Dr. Carol Grimes, Chair, Education Committee
OCACS cgrimes@gwc.cccd.edu

MORE INFORMATION ON THE HIGH SCHOOL ACS TESTS

We invite you to participate in the Orange County American Chemistry Society (ACS) program in recognizing your top students. About half of the 95 public and private high schools in Orange County participated last year in one or both of the tests and we are hoping to increase the number of schools and students participating and receiving awards. There is one test for first year chemistry students, and another for advanced chemistry students. Your top students are essentially competing against each other, but they will also see how they compare to 400 other students in Orange County. EVERY school's TOP student in each test is recognized with their name on a perpetual plaque (kept at your school), a certificate, and a free dinner celebrating their accomplishment during this school year. This awards dinner is in May.

The First Year Test (on a Saturday late in April) is designed for students who are in their first year of 'Regular, Honors, or IB' chemistry.

STARTING THIS YEAR, students in their first year of chemistry at an AP or IBHL level are NOT ALLOWED to take the First Year Test, only the Local ACS Olympiad test.

Teachers at each school determine the criteria for selecting their 8 students for this test. This test is prepared for Orange County ACS by a group of experienced high school and college teachers. NO CALCULATORS ARE ALLOWED on this 2-hour test, which includes 75, multiple choice questions of varying complexity, covering topics included in the State Chemistry Standards and in first year chemistry textbooks. The goal of this test is to challenge but not discourage students, so the average score recently has been about 60%, with only a few students scoring over 90%. In addition to a student from every high school getting the above recognition, ten schools will find that their top student will also receive a special gift.

The ACS Chemistry Olympiad test is for four students per school who are in second year high school chemistry or in AP or IBHL Chemistry. This test is normally given in late March or early April as scheduled by national ACS. The 2-hour multiple-choice test is prepared by the national ACS Examinations Committee, and is similar in content and length to the AP Multiple Choice test. The top student from each school is recognized as stated above. The top 11 students from this test (with a maximum of two from any one school) are invited to take a second test (6-hours) later in April when they may then qualify them for a trip to the Air Force Academy in June to prepare for the US National Olympiad Team which competes internationally.

National ACS and our Orange County Section are encouraging and offering some support for High School Chemistry Clubs. For more information please contact OCACS Education Committee member Phuong Vo, (pvo369@sbcglobal.net)

Please send an e-mail note to Judy Bechtold (bechtoldjudy@gmail.com) indicating name and e-mail address of the chemistry teacher at schools in your district to whom we can direct future communications from ACS. Also, let her know if you do not intend to participate this year, and we will remove your name from our mailing list.

Best wishes for a good start of your year as you help students learn to enjoy the wonderful world of chemistry.

Dr. Carol Grimes, Chair Education Committee OCACS
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