

## Orange County American Chemical Society Education Committee



Dear Fellow Chemistry Teacher,

November 2017

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](http://www.OCACS.org)

National Chemistry Week "Chemistry Rocks!" 12 college chemistry groups do "hands-on" chemistry with children	Sunday, October 15, 2017 Santa Ana Zoo 10-3
Chemistry Olympiad Local Exam AP Chemistry HS students compete, max. 4/school (Top each school and top school teams are Banquet guests in May)	Saturday March 10, 2018 Irvine Valley College 8:45-11 am
Orange County Science & Engineering Fair Junior and Senior High Divisions Check Website for Other Important Dates <a href="http://www.OCSEF.org">www.OCSEF.org</a>	Wednesday, March 14, 2018 Orange County Fairgrounds 9-3
Chemistry Olympiad National Exam Top 11 from 3/10 test compete, written + lab (All are Guests at May Banquet with gifts for each)	Saturday, April 21, 2018 Vanguard University 8:30- 2:30
College Awards Dinner Honoring outstanding college students of 17 local colleges	Wednesday, April 25, 2018 Concordia University, Irvine
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 28, 2018 Cal State Fullerton 9:00 – 11:15 (8:45 Registration)
High School Awards Dinner, honoring First Year, AP Olympiad, and Science Fair winners	Tuesday, May 22, 2018 CSUF

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

Dr. Carol Grimes, Chair, Education Committee ,OCACS [cgrimes@gwc.cccd.edu](mailto: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. The awards dinner is in May.

The First Year Test (April 28, 2018 at Cal State Fullerton) is designed for students who are in their **first year** of Regular, Honors, or IB chemistry.

**PLEASE REMEMBER, 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 the first year test. This test is prepared for Orange County ACS by a group of experienced college teachers. NO CALCULATORS ARE ALLOWED on this 2-hour test, which includes 80-90 multiple choice questions of varying complexity, covering topics included in the State Chemistry Standards and in first year chemistry textbooks. The SAT subject exam is good preparation for this test. The top student from each school and the top three school teams are recognized as stated above. 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%.

We strongly discourage sending only one student to this exam, which is designed to be an internal competition among your school's students. If only one student takes the exam, s/he will receive a certificate of participation, but will not be acknowledged as your "best" student on the school plaque.

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. The Chemistry Olympiad exam is meant for students taking a second year of chemistry, not students in a first year honors class. If a first year student takes the Chemistry Olympiad local exam, s/he may not take the first year exam as well. The Olympiad test is normally given in early March as scheduled by national ACS. The 110 minute multiple-choice test is prepared by the national ACS Examinations Committee, and is similar in content and length to the AP Multiple Choice test. Any past qualifier from a high school for the national round (one of the 11 "team members") is automatically eligible for the exam, and the school can send 4 new students to take the Olympiad exam. The team score will be computed using the 4 new competitors. 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, including a lab component) later in April when they may then qualify 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.

Please share this information with all the Chemistry teachers at your school and send an e-mail note to Judy Bechtold ([bechtoldacs@gmail.com](mailto:bechtoldacs@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      [cgrimes@gwc.cccd.edu](mailto:cgrimes@gwc.cccd.edu)