



January 14, 2020

Dear Advanced Chemistry Teacher:

The Orange County Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) is sponsoring the 2020 Local Section Exam for Advanced Chemistry (first & second year) students. The sixty question multiple-choice exam will be held on Saturday, March 7 from 8:45 – 11:00 a.m. in the Business Sciences and Technology Innovation Center (BSTIC) at **Irvine Valley College** in Irvine. Please arrange to be dropped off or if you intend to park purchase a \$5 parking permit at the dispenser found between lots 4 and 5 (see enclosed map) and display it on your car's dashboard. This is the first step that could lead to an invitation to compete in the 2020 National Chemistry Olympiad and 2020 International Chemistry Olympiad. Each high school may select up to **four** advanced (AP or IB level) students to compete in the Local Section Exam Competition. However, a student must have U.S. citizenship **OR** have legal, permanent resident status (possess a green card) to continue on and participate in the National Chemistry Olympiad.

The Local Section Exam will also determine the top Advanced Chemistry student from each participating high school and the top six high school teams in the county (see rules posted on the ocacs.org website). All these students will be honored at the ACS High School Awards Dinner on May 19, 2020. The top **eleven** individual students having U.S. citizenship or possessing a green card will be eligible to participate in the 2020 National Chemistry Olympiad on Saturday, April 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at **Vanguard University**. This second exam will contain both written and laboratory portions. National rules stipulate that no more than **two** students per school may participate in the National Olympiad exam on April 25. Students should bring a #2 pencil, eraser, nonprogrammable calculator and **photo identification** for both of these tests. **Absolutely no programmable or graphing calculators will be allowed for either the Local Section or National tests!**

If a student competing in the National Olympiad finishes among the top twenty nationally they will be invited to the Olympiad Study Camp to compete for the **four** spots available to the U.S. team. Last year, the four finalists representing the U.S. ended up with three gold medals and one silver medal at the competition held in Paris, France. **TWO OF THE GOLD MEDAL WINNERS WERE FROM ORANGE COUNTY!** They were Anton Ni from University High School and Edward Jin from Beckman High. There were eighty competing countries. This year the competition will be held in Istanbul, Turkey.

Our ACS section has received national recognition for the excellence of our Olympiad program. It is a tribute to all the outstanding high school chemistry programs in the county. If you wish to learn more about the Chemistry Olympiad go to [www.acs.org](http://www.acs.org) and do a search of the site with the key word **olympiad**. You will find extensive information regarding the program including copies of previous exams.

To register your students for the competition please go to [www.ocacs.org](http://www.ocacs.org) between **12:00 pm on Wednesday, February 19 and midnight Saturday, February 29**. Click on the educational programs tab then click on the link for the Chemistry Olympiad and fill out the Entry Form. Also, we are looking for a few more chemistry teachers to assist us in the administration of the exam on March 2. Please check the box on the registration form if you can assist. 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 may not be acknowledged as your "best" student on the school plaque. If you feel that there is a good reason why your school is entering only one student (who should be recognized as the best student from your school), please file an appeal with Carol Grimes at [cgrimes@gwc.cccd.edu](mailto:cgrimes@gwc.cccd.edu).

Additionally, this year for students that didn't make their team of four for their school we will accept the first 20 individual registrations on a first come, first serve basis. Registration for these students will open at 7:00 am on Sunday, March 1 and close at 11:59 pm on Sunday, March 1. Please direct these students to the [ocacs.org](http://ocacs.org) website to register and caution them to register early in the time window because these spots are expected to fill rapidly.

Please feel free to contact me at [bshenton@pylusd.org](mailto:bshenton@pylusd.org) if you have any questions. Thank you and best of luck to you and your students.

Sincerely,  
*Brent Shenton*  
Olympiad Coordinator