Dear Fellow Chemistry Teachers,

November, 2020

The year 2020 thus far has been a complete disappointment, and I know that all of you have been working even harder than ever to cope with the challenges of being thrown online last spring with hardly time to draw breath! We had to cancel all of our normal spring activities except for the Chemistry Olympiad exam, and unfortunately it appears that the same will be true for 2021 as well.

Chemistry Olympiad Local Exam
AP Chemistry HS students compete, max. 4/school
Top student will have his/her name engraved on the school’s perpetual plaque

Saturday March 6, 2021
Will be given and proctored online

Orange County Science & Engineering Fair
2021
Junior and Senior High Divisions
Online judging, March 24-28,
Check Website for Other Important
www.OCSEF.org

Chemistry Olympiad National Exam, Part 1
Top 11 from 3/6 test compete
online

Saturday, April 17, 2021
Will be given and proctored

Chemistry Olympiad National Exam, Part 2
National ACS will contact eligible students
online

Saturday, April 24, 2021
Will be given and proctored

The ACS Chemistry Olympiad team competition consists of four student teams from each school who are typically in their second year of high school chemistry or a first year AP or IBHL Chemistry class. 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 Olympiad Committee, and is similar in content and length to the Multiple Choice section on the Chemistry AP test. Any past qualifier from a high school for the national round is automatically eligible for the exam, but will be competing on an individual basis only. The team score will be computed using the scores for the four competitors (they may have competed in previous years) who have not previously qualified for the national test. The top 11 scoring students from this test (with a maximum of two from any one school) are invited to take a second test later in April, and after that a third exam which may then qualify them for a (perhaps virtual) trip to the study camp in June. The top four from the study camp will
represent the U.S. at the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) in July (which may be a virtual competition as well).

National ACS will be offering the exam online also for students whose local section is not offering the exam, but students in Orange County will not be able to take it outside of our offering on March 6.

Even though we will be unable to do an awards dinner in 2021, we will be honoring the top student from each school with a certificate, and their name to be engraved on the school’s perpetual plaque when we are next able to collect them (in 2022, we sincerely hope!). We will also honor the top 6 teams as usual with a plaque that we will send to the school, and certificates for all of the students in each team.

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 unless the student scores above the average for this year’s participants. If a teacher feels that there is a good reason why their school is entering only one student (who should be recognized as the best student from your school), s/he may file an appeal with the Education Committee Chair.

We will not be able to plan an exam for the first year students in 2021, as our normal venue CSUF is closed in the spring semester of next year, and our committee does not have the resources to proctor some 350 students online. We hope to resume this exam in 2022 also.

And lastly, the Orange County Chemistry Teacher of the Year award will not be given in 2021. Part of the judging process involves school site visits, and there is no way to tell if that will be possible this upcoming spring. Again, our hopes are pinned on 2022!

If you have any questions on all of this, please email me at the address below. With the pandemic, we are as uncertain of what the next year holds as010110 all of you! In late January/early February we will send out information about registration and procedures for the first Olympiad exam on March 6, 2021.

Best wishes to you and your colleagues for the rest of this academic year!

Sincerely,

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