



January 2, 2023

Dear Advanced Chemistry Teacher:

The Orange County Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) is sponsoring the 2023 Local Section Exam for Advanced Chemistry (first & second year) students. The sixty-question multiple-choice exam will be held on Saturday, March 4 from 8:45 – 11:00 a.m. in the Business Sciences and Technology Innovation Center (BSTIC) at *Irvine Valley College* in Irvine. Competitors should arrange to be dropped off or if they intend to park purchase a \$5 parking permit at the dispenser found between lots 4 and 5 (see enclosed map) and display it on their car's dashboard. This is the first step that could lead to an invitation to compete in the 2023 National Chemistry Olympiad and 2023 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 advance and participate in the United States National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO).

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). The top **ten** individual students having U.S. citizenship or possessing a green card will be eligible to participate in the 2023 USNCO on Saturday, April 22. National rules stipulate that no more than **two** students per school may participate in the USNCO on April 22. Students must bring a nonprogrammable calculator and photo **identification** for both tests. ***Absolutely no programmable or graphing calculators will be allowed for either the Local Section or National tests!*** More information about exam protocol will be shared after registration closes in late February.

If a student competing in the USNCO 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, one of the four finalists representing the U.S was Nathan Ouyang from University High School in Irvine. Nathan received a gold medal and finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the world. The U.S. team also received three silver medals in addition to the gold medal that Nathan Ouyang received. The virtual competition was held in Tianjin, China. There were 84 competing countries. This year the competition will be held in Zurich, Switzerland.

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 **Wednesday, February 15 and 11:59 pm on Friday, February 24**. Click on the educational programs tab then click on the link for the Chemistry Olympiad and fill out the Entry Form. **It is strongly recommended that students are registered with their own personal email due to problems encountered with school district firewalls in previous years.** Also, we are looking for a few

more chemistry teachers to assist us in the administration of the exam on March 4. Please check the box on the registration form if you can assist. We would really appreciate your help.

We strongly discourage schools 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's perpetual 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, for students who didn't make their team of four for their school we will accept a limited number of individual registrations on a first come, first serve basis. Registration for these students will open at 9:00 am on Saturday, February 25 and close at 11:59 pm on Saturday, February 25 (please note the small time window). There will be a fee of \$20 for all self-registrants. 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 [lbnshenton@gmail.com](mailto:lbnshenton@gmail.com) if you have any questions. Thank you and best of luck to you and your students.

Sincerely,  
*Brent Shenton*  
Olympiad Coordinator