

Orange County American Chemical Society Education Committee

A community engaged in promoting the positive impact of chemistry



November, 2023

Dear Fellow Chemistry Teachers,

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. Registration deadline for the Chemistry Olympiad Local Section Exam is Dec 15, 2023 ([details below](#)). More information about other test registration and dinner reservations will be sent in February and April. For other information along with results from previous years, please go to the OCACS webpage at ocacs.org and click on the EDUCATION tab at the top of the page - or contact cgrimes@gwc.cccd.edu.

Please share the following calendar in your department as a reminder of these dates.

Nominations for 2024 Chemistry Teacher of the Year	Due January 15, 2024 (<i>midnight</i>)
Chemistry Olympiad Local Section Exam (LSE) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advanced Chemistry HS students (AP/IB)• Registration submitted by students individually• (<i>Top student per school, USNCO qualifiers, & top school teams are guests at the HS Awards Dinner</i>)	Saturday, March 2, 2024 <i>Irvine Valley College</i> 8:45 - 11:00 am <i>Registration by Dec 15, 2023 (link to information)</i>
Orange County Science & Engineering Fair <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Junior and Senior High Divisions• Check OCSEF.org for other dates	Wednesday, March 6, 2024 <i>Orange County Fairgrounds</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm
College Awards Dinner <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Honors outstanding OC college students	April, date TBD <i>Concordia University, Irvine</i>
USNCO (United States National Chemistry Olympiad) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Top 10 students (determined by national ACS) on LSE• 4.75 hrs plus breaks includes written & lab components	Saturday, April 20, 2024 <i>Vanguard University</i> 8:00am - 2:30 pm
First Year High School Chemistry Exam <ul style="list-style-type: none">• max 8/school team picked by HS teacher• (<i>Top student per school & top school team are guests at the HS Awards Dinner</i>) (details)	Saturday, April 27, 2024 <i>Cal State Fullerton</i> 9:00 - 11:15 am (8:45 am Registration)
High School Awards Dinner <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Honors First Year Test winners, LSE Olympiad winners, USNCO qualifiers, Science Fair winners	May, date TBD <i>Concordia University, Irvine</i>

(Next page for more information on the High School ACS Exams)

We invite you to participate in the Orange County American Chemistry Society (OCACS) High School ACS Exam program in recognizing your top chemistry students. We thank you for all you do for your students.

FIRST YEAR EXAM. *April 27, 2024 at Cal State Fullerton.*

For orange county students in their first year of regular or honors chemistry. The following are NOT ALLOWED to take the First Year Exam: students (a) Enrolled in an AP Chemistry class or at IBHL (b) Registered for the 2024 AP chemistry test or (c) who take the Chemistry Olympiad LSE exam.

- Top student from EACH high school & top six school teams are honored at our HS Awards Dinner
- 8 students maximum per school may be registered (top 5 scorers are the team)
- Teachers at each high school determine the criteria for selecting their students
- NO CALCULATORS are allowed on this 2-hour test
- 80-90 multiple choice questions of varying complexity, covering topics included in NGSS and first year chemistry textbooks, prepared by experienced college teachers
- The goal is to challenge but not discourage students; the average score has been about 60% with only a few students scoring over 90%.

CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD LOCAL SECTION EXAM (LSE). *March 2, 2024 at Irvine Valley College.*

Primarily for IBHL, second year high school chemistry, and first year AP chemistry students. Students taking this LSE exam may NOT also take the OCACS first-year exam.

- *Students, with parent/guardian, must register individually by **DECEMBER 15, 2023** at the following link: [ChemOly Registration](#)*
- No limit to the number of students from a single school. However, schools with a large number of participants will be expected to provide teachers to proctor the LSE on March 2.
- The 100-minute 60 multiple-choice test is prepared by the National ACS Olympiad Committee. A tiebreaker written by local university chemistry instructors will also be given.
- School team scores are determined by adding their top 4 scores. Schools that send less than 4 students may still compete, but their team scores will be lower due to the fewer number of students competing.
- Any past qualifier for the USNCO national round is strongly encouraged to compete on this year's LSE exam, but they will be competing on an individual basis only - **not** on the school team.
- As determined by the National ACS, this year's top 10 from Orange County - with a maximum of two from any single school - will be invited to take the USNCO on April 20, 2024. The top 20 students on the USNCO in the U.S. will be invited to the National Study Camp in June. The top four from the study camp represent the U.S. at the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) in July.
- Please contact Brent Shenton (lnbshenton@gmail.com) if you can help proctor the test on March 2, 2024. ***Your help is crucial to the success of the program.***

Both First Year and LSE exams are designed to be an **internal** competition *among your school's own students*.

Thus, we strongly discourage sending only one student to either exam. (If only one student takes an exam, they will receive a certificate of participation and be invited to the HS Awards Dinner but will not be acknowledged as your "best" student on the school plaque, unless the student scores above the county average. A teacher may file an appeal with the OCACS Education Committee chair if there is a compelling reason for their only registered student to be recognized as the "best" from your school.)

Please contact Dr. Carol Grimes of the OCACS Education Committee for any support or for more information. Best wishes to you and your colleagues for a stellar academic year!

Sincerely,



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