



## Memo re: Final Examination Information

### Physics 112 and Chemistry 112

2018 - 2019

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

With school administration approval, the final exam format will be changed to compliment the standards-based assessment currently being implemented in Chemistry 112 and Physics 112. In previous years the final exam would carry a weight of 30% of a student's overall mark. That will not be used this year as the idea of weighting does not make sense with the current method of assessment. If you are unaware of the current assessment practice, please refer to the attached memo *Standards-Based Grading*.

Students will choose which learning targets will be on their final exam. Essentially, it will be the last chance to improve their grade on a learning target. Students who have been earning high grades through regular course work or through re-assessing may have very few learning targets, or none at all, on their examination. It is strongly encouraged that students take the opportunity to re-assess throughout the semester so as not to have a large final examination.

Near the end of May, or very early June, students will select what will concepts (learning targets) will be on their final exam. If a student is failing a learning target (a grade of 1 or 2), then they have to attempt those sections. Students passing a learning target (a grade of 3 or higher) will not be required to write those sections of the exam, however, they are strongly encouraged to attempt to improve a grade of 3 or 4. If the grade on the final exam is higher than that of the semester, the exam grade will be taken. If it is lower, then the semester grade will be taken into consideration. For example, having a 4 in the semester but scoring a 2 on the exam will result in a grade of 3. Each learning target on the exam carries same the weight as every assessment done in the semester and would be a similar format in terms of the number and type of questions and length.

I know this could take some time to fully understand and grasp and I hope I have been clear. At any point I am happy to discuss this assessment with you. Email is a good way to contact me, however, a detailed discussion can be difficult in that medium and I may request we talk on the phone or face-to-face.

Thank you for your interest in student learning and I am excited to implement this new practice!

Peter MacDonald

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