



Conference Period: 5th Period
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Dear Parents/Guardians,

My name is Bruce De La Paz. I am a seventh-year science teacher at El Paso High School. For the 2023-2024 school year, I will teach Pre-AP Chemistry, UT OnRamps Chemistry I (Principles of Chemistry I), and UT onRamps Chemistry II (Principles of Chemistry II). I have worked in academia for over ten years as either a teacher, tutor in math and science at El Paso Community College and El Paso High, as well as a master TA in a human cadaver anatomy lab for the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Texas at El Paso. I hold a bachelor's degree of science with distinguished honors in the field of chemistry with a minor in biological sciences and a master's degree of science in biomedical engineering. My research involved collaborative and independent work regarding device design and construction of medical devices. I am the STEM club sponsor at El Paso High, established during the 2017-2018 school year. As a club sponsor, one of my primary goals is to promote collaborative and interdisciplinary research for the students to grow academically and potentially venture into STEM-related professions. I am the UIL science coach for El Paso High, where I focus on reviewing first-year semester-one chemistry topics and teaching more advanced first-year semester-two content. In addition, I am the facilitator for a committee called *Conversion with A Scientist*, where a select number of students meet with one of UTEP's distinguished chemistry professors Dr. Skye Fortier, and former professor, Dr. Luis Echegoyen to discuss current scientific events and breakthroughs. For the upcoming school year, our focus will be on researching and quantifying microplastics found in El Paso's water supply throughout the county and coming up with an engineering solution to reduce the plastic content in our city.

I look forward to meeting and knowing your son or daughter throughout the school year. Although science can be a daunting core subject with multiple challenges, I will work hard to provide the necessary skills for your son or daughter to succeed and do well in my class. Moreover, to ensure that your son or daughter has a successful school year, we will adhere to the following core values:

- *Respectful (language, behavior, communications)*
- *Open Minded (believe the impossible, appreciate diversity)*
- *Achievers (observe pathways, challenge yourself, set goals)*
- *Responsible (monitor self, attendance/tardies)*

Several features will be implemented to help promote and spark curiosity or appreciation for science in general to develop your son's or daughter's creative skills and interests. This will include multiple laboratory experiments conducted throughout the school year, interactive classroom activities, integrating technology, and promoting a blended learning environment.

If you would like to meet with me to discuss your child's academic performance, behavior, or any other concerns that they are facing, please feel free to contact me at bdelapaz@episd.org. I will be happy to set up an appointment during my conference period. It would be appreciated if you could notify me at least two days in advance to set up a conference. Thank you for your time and support. Let's make this an exciting school year!

Sincerely,

Bruce De La Paz