Welcome to the 2010 Cal State San Marcos AP* Chemistry Summer Institute. I look forward to meeting you and hope you are prepared to have a productive four days. This workshop has been designed for first time and beginning AP Chemistry teachers. The workshop has also in the past proven very beneficial to the experienced AP* Chemistry teacher, as the sharing of different approaches and ideas can strengthen any established program. My goal for this workshop is to provide you with an overview of the AP Chemistry course – with particular emphasis on how to approach this course with students whose math and reading levels do not fit the “classic” AP Chemistry profile. These techniques and strategies have proven very beneficial to schools in MA, RI, NY, and FL. We will address the setting up of an AP course, content, scheduling, pacing, teaching strategies, testing, the audit process, and the development of skills that increase student interest and knowledge. We will discuss content and strategies for dealing with particular chemistry topics that always present each year’s class with special challenges.

During the afternoon session, we will carry out a lab activity (activities) that you can incorporate into next year’s course. The activities are designed to full-fill the required AP* Lab mandates but are designed around a classroom situation that does not provide the time, budget, and facilities to carry out the traditional AP lab protocols. These labs will emphasize demonstrating and reinforcing important chemical concepts within the low tech/budget format that many of us experience. Some examples could include: Determining the Thickness of Zinc Coating, Percent Composition lab, The Construction and Launching of Beral Pipette Rockets, Determining the Molecular Mass of an Unknown Gas, Multiple End Point Determination for an Indicator, and Duplicating the Blood Buffering System. Hopefully the activities and content of this workshop will allow you to start your year up and running.

Although I have much planned for the week, I am flexible and more than willing to address issues that may concern you. Each morning, members of the group will share best practices. In planning for best practices, please bring a favorite chemistry idea or activity that has worked well for you. This activity can be drawn from any level Chemistry course you have taught.

Please bring a pair of goggles, your current text, and a calculator.

Once again, I look forward to meeting and working with you. If you have any particular questions, please contact me at dgrib@comcast.net.

Sincerely,

Don Gribbons
AP Consultant