



Chemistry 1 Syllabus 2026-2027-Helena High School

Teacher: Jamie O'Malley

School: Helena High School, [Helena High School](https://www.helenaschools.org)

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Room: 207

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Website (agenda found here):

https://staff.helenaschools.org/staff_page/jomalley/

Textbooks: *Chemistry*, by Addison-Wesley, 2000. Or: <https://flexbooks.ck12.org/cbook/ck-12-chemistry-flexbook-2.0/>.

TEAMS: daily assignments and weekly agendas will be posted in Teams.



Welcome to Chemistry 1! This year we will be studying lab safety, matter, atomic structure, bonding, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, thermochemistry, acids and bases, gas laws, electrochemistry, and if time, nuclear chemistry.

This foundational course will introduce you to the fascinating world of matter and its transformations, providing you with essential scientific knowledge and critical thinking skills that extend far beyond the classroom. Throughout the year, we'll explore fundamental concepts while developing your ability to think like a scientist through hands-on laboratory investigations and problem-solving activities. Whether you're planning a career in science, medicine, engineering, or simply want to better understand the chemical processes that shape our daily lives—from the food we eat to the technology we use—this course will build your confidence in scientific reasoning and prepare you for advanced studies. Together, we'll discover how chemistry connects to real-world applications and current events, making science both relevant and exciting as you develop the analytical skills that will serve you well in any future endeavor.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

1. Pencil or pen
2. Spiral notebook for labs (one subject)
3. 3"x5" index cards for tests
4. Scientific calculator
5. Any type of folder or binder to keep your papers organized
6. Colored pencils
7. Goggles (you can purchase these from me for \$3 or borrow a pair)
8. Nitrile gloves (no latex) for labs (can share a box with a partner)
9. Closed toed shoes for lab days



	Student Expectations	Student Initials
Cell Phones	No cell phones are allowed in class, unless used for an academic purpose as directed by the teacher. Phones must be stored in the class cell phone pouch at the start of class. Please refer to the student handbook regarding HHS' cell phone policy.	
Food and Drinks	Food and drinks are not allowed in the classroom, except for water (unless it's during the nutrition break). No food or drinks are allowed in the lab area, no exceptions!	
Attendance	Please make every effort to come to school unless you are sick or have a school-related absence. If you are absent only on a test day, you must schedule a makeup with me the day you return. You will be taking a different test than the rest of the class. If you can't find the time to make up a test within ONE WEEK, you will not receive credit for the test.	
Punctuality	Please be on time. You may use the restroom after you check in with me. After three tardies you will be asked to wash lab dishes.	
Make-up Work	It is your responsibility to check the absent folders or Teams for any missed work. For missed labs, check with me promptly. You can make up labs during lunch or after school, but if you wait longer than one week, you will not receive credit.	
Grading	Daily assignments will be reviewed and corrected together in class. Students will receive points based on completion. Missing assignments will be marked with a "missing" flag in PowerSchool and zeroes will be entered. Scores will be corrected as assignments are handed in, up until the unit test. All unit classwork is due on the day of the unit test. Please check the <i>no name</i> box first if you believe a zero is entered incorrectly in PowerSchool. Assessments will be weighted heavier than regular class work. Quarter grades: 40%, Final Exams: 20%. A: 90-100%; B: 80-90%; C: 70-79%; D: 60-69%; F: Below 60%. Grades will be updated at least once per week.	
Homework	Students will have time to work on assignments in class after instruction, so the only homework will generally be completing any unfinished classwork.	
Late Work	All classwork in a unit is due on the day of the unit test. Classwork will be graded 1-3 times per week and receive 100% credit if complete. After each unit test, any incomplete assignments from that unit will receive 0% credit.	
Safety	Failure to follow the safety rules will result in a visit with your administrator and you will not receive credit for the lab. Wearing closed-toed shoes and safety goggles is necessary for every lab. The safety contract must be signed before a student can participate in labs.	
Communication	Please tell me if you need help! I am at school 30 minutes before and at least 30 minutes after school so feel free to stop by. Don't struggle alone, speak up if you need help! The best way to message me is through a Teams chat or email.	
Copying/Cheating	Please see the school's policy on cheating in the handbook.	

About Your Teacher

I graduated from South Whidbey High School in 1987 and the University of Washington in 1991. I have a B.S. in Zoology and an M.S. in Secondary Education. I am currently working through my National Board Teaching Certification. My husband of 31 years and I have lived near Winston, MT for close to 15 years. I am not Suga Sean O'Malley's mom. I taught Biology and Math at North Kitsap High School for one year and Biology and AP Biology at Sultan High School for 6.5 years. After moving to Montana, I was the Director of Education at ExplorationWorks, and taught STEM at Starbase for 1.5 years. I have been teaching at HHS since 2016. Here at HHS, I have taught Chemistry 1, AP Chemistry, and Biology 1. I have been the advisor of Key Club and Science Olympiad. I also have several years' experience working in a biotechnology laboratory in Seattle performing



microbiology quality control and immunology research, as well as providing support materials for chemical and biological testing at the Montana DPHHS. My most challenging career to date was a stay-at-home mom for close to seven years.

I enjoy hiking, camping, fishing, gardening, hunting, riding horses, winter sports, and of course, teaching! We have two herd dogs, two cats, and approximately 35 chickens. We also have two kids, Jake and Katie, who graduated from HHS in 2016 and 2017. Katie lives in Whitefish, MT and is a 2022 graduate of MSU with a degree in Graphic Design and is currently working in her field. Jake lives in Missoula with his Schnauzer Otto and works in the insurance technology industry.

Let's make it a great year!

-Jamie O'Malley



Please return this page to Mrs. O'Malley

I have read and understand Mrs. O'Malley's Chemistry 1 syllabus.

Parent/guardian name (printed): _____

Parent/guardian Signature: _____

Student name (printed): _____

Student Signature: _____

Period: _____

Don't forget to turn in the signed Safety Contract so you can participate in labs!

Let's have a great year!

