



## Brookline High School

Science Department  
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### *Chemistry Course Selection*

Physics teachers will be meeting with students, with the help of their fellow Chemistry teachers, to help them understand the differences between the various Chemistry courses. They will also give one-on-one recommendations when appropriate. Below are Chemistry teachers' words on how to choose a course:

**Chemistry 1** is a college preparatory chemistry course in which students learn material through direct instruction and activities that are the foundation of learning. As the next step after Physics, it is a more demanding course. Students learn about a wide range of topics within Chemistry; while many of these topics overlap with those on *Chemistry I Honor*, *Chemistry I* does not delve into the details of the same topics, or with as much algebra as other courses.

**Homework** in *Chemistry I* consists of guided reading with key questions, problem-solving, and independent reading-and-note-taking. Homework often involves analyzing lab results, as well as reviewing content taught in the classroom.

**Chemistry I Honor** is a fast-paced, intense introductory Chemistry course based around lecture, discussions, and laboratory experiments across a wide-range of content. As the next step after Physics, it is a more demanding course.

**Homework** in *Chemistry I Honor* requires strong quantitative skills, and consists of reading and problem solving that supplement and guide their class work, as well as completing questions related to lab experiments.

**The students** in *Chemistry I Honor* are comfortable learning in groups as well as learning independently through reading, are well organized, have a strong number sense for proportions and grade level algebra, and they are ready for a challenge.

**SWS Students** have the option of taking an SWS section of *Chemistry I Honor*, which is the same course, simply populated with SWS students.

#### **Other pathways**

- Summer school is not the best option for students hoping to accelerate, and must consult me before considering any summer school course.
- Simultaneously taking another science course as a 10<sup>th</sup> grade student is not necessary, and it would not accelerate a student who is very interested in science. This is because many students have successfully taken optional courses concurrently with Biology in 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ed Wisner  
Curriculum Coordinator for Science