



Adam Trollinger

High School Chemistry Teacher



I teach all levels of chemistry at Morris Knolls High School and run multiple after school clubs: HOSA/Medical Club, Academic Decathlon, Gaming Club.

How long have you been a high school chemistry teacher?

I have completed three years of teaching. I began in September 2020.

Where do you work?

Morris Hills Regional District in New Jersey

How do you spend most of your time at work?

- Teaching and facilitating learning in my chemistry classroom.
- Planning for lessons and revising assignments and lessons based on collaboration with colleagues, feedback from students and observations of the class.
- Supporting student needs outside of the classroom.
- Providing feedback on assignments.

Why did you choose this career?

I find it inspiring and motivating. It feels like I am having a major direct impact. I enjoy getting to work with people and still enjoy chemistry, which is unusual for most people, so I want to share that. I enjoyed the environment of high school and appreciate the culture and comradery it creates. The fact that every year is a fresh new start and another chance to try again, learn and do better is refreshing. I always want to be mentally stimulated.

What did you do to prepare for this career?

I received my bachelor's in chemical engineering. Since I didn't go to school for teaching, I had to go through New Jersey's alternate path to teaching program. This entailed a preliminary course through the community college of 50 hours (30 hours of instruction, 10 hours with children and 10 hours shadowing teachers), receiving a job at a school and then taking 24 credits worth of specific education courses during my first two years teaching and completing the EdTPA process.



Adam in JROTC

What do you enjoy most about your job?

The subtle unexpected interactions with students. When a student finally realizes their mistakes and understands the concept.

What do you find most challenging about your job?

Answering questions on the spot that I didn't see coming. Exciting, but it is a challenge. Assessing how long it will take students to complete an assignment.

What was one of your first jobs and how did that experience influence your career path?

I was a soccer referee from 2008-2016, so I got used to people (particularly parents) not being pleased with me. You cannot please everyone.

What is one piece of advice you would give to a young person who is interested in your profession?

Be ready to always keep learning, be challenged, but don't take it personally if students don't like you or your subject. You won't please everyone.

