

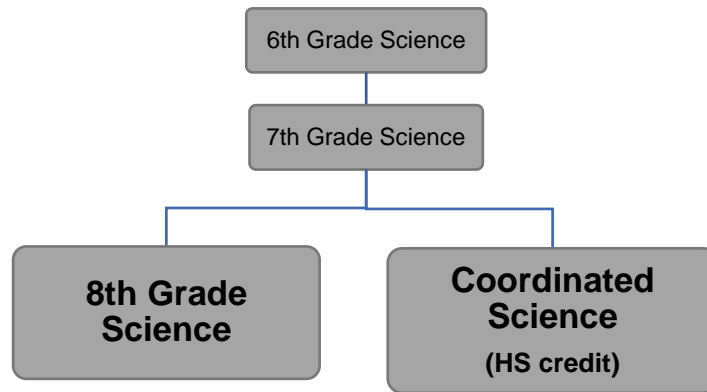


Science Pathways

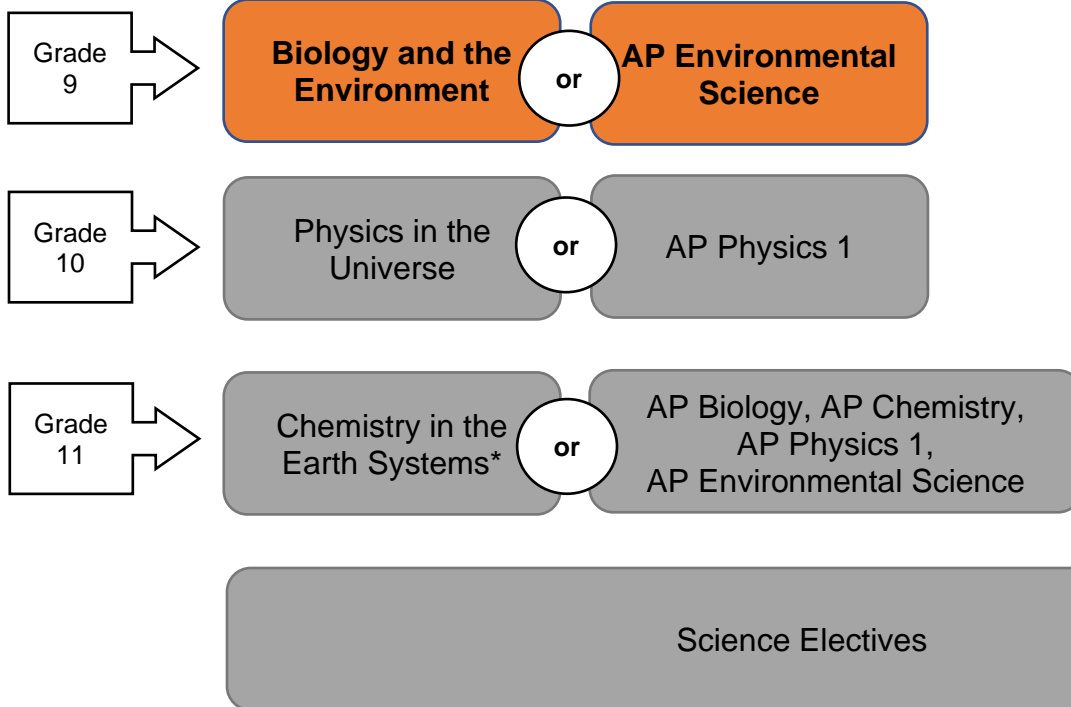
Placement for **rising grade 9** students

USE THIS GUIDE FOR COURSE REGISTRATION FOR THE **2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR**

Middle
School



High
School



**tentative course title*

What science courses are available for incoming 9th graders to enroll in?

Regardless of their 8th grade science experience, incoming 9th graders will have the opportunity to register for either:

- Biology and the Environment
- AP Environmental Science

More information about course selections on the next page!

All incoming 9th grade students have a choice of which 9th grade science course to enroll in. Please note that a student in 8th grade science can choose to enroll in AP Environmental Science for 9th grade if he/she feels they meet the criteria outlined below. Students in 8th grade Coordinated Science do NOT have to take AP Environmental Science. Please use the following information to assist students in making the best choice.

What is Biology and the Environment?

Biology and the Environment is a rigorous college preparatory course aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards. This course integrates life science, earth and space sciences and engineering. In this laboratory course, students engage in science and engineering practices such as developing and using models, constructing explanations, conducting investigations and designing solutions to real-world problems. Students will study the connections between living organisms and Earth systems.

What is AP Environmental Science and how do I decide if this is a course I should consider?

AP Environmental Science is a college level course taught at the high school that focuses on ecological processes, human impacts on the Earth, and how to resolve or prevent natural and human-made environmental problems. For more information about this course, please visit the College Board website: <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-environmental-science>.

For AP Environmental Science, it is recommended that an 8th grade science student:

- have successfully completed Algebra 1;
- demonstrated at or above grade level proficiency in science; and,
 - Have a strong understanding of life science and physical science.
 - Knowledge about earth science concepts is helpful.
- demonstrated at or above grade level proficiency in English Language Arts.
 - Please note that the college level exams include numerous reading and writing tasks.

Students should enroll in AP Environmental Science if:

- they are interested in the environment and/or related topics;
- they want to take an AP course (want to have the opportunity to earn college credit by reading college level text and taking college level exams);
- their other courses and extracurriculars leave enough time and energy to spend preparing for the course work;
- they demonstrate a high-level of interest, intellectual engagement, and a strong desire to be challenged;
- they are highly self-motivated, have the desire to excel in their courses, take responsibility for their own learning, attend class regularly, complete assignments on time, and recognize that effort is an important component of success;
- they successfully complete tasks that require time, thought, perseverance, and implementation of multiple steps, concepts, or techniques; and,
- they examine and learn from errors, try different approaches when needed, revise their work through the learning process, and seek help and access resources when needed.

*****Please note – unless a student has a strong interest in ecological topics or desires the opportunity for college credit in a 9th grade course, it is recommended that he/she enroll for the rigorous Biology and the Environment course. All students will have the opportunity to enroll in AP Environmental Science as an elective in 11th or 12th grade if not taken in grade 9.***