

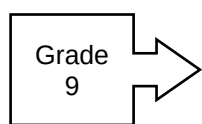


Science Pathways

Placement for rising grade 10 students

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

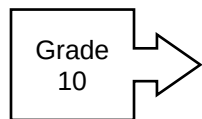
High School



Biology and the Environment

or

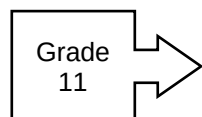
AP Environmental Science



Physics in the Universe

or

AP Physics 1



Chemistry in the Earth Systems*

or

AP Biology, AP Chemistry,
AP Physics 1,
AP Environmental Science

Science Electives

**tentative course title*

What science courses are available for incoming 10th graders to enroll in?

Incoming 10th graders will have the opportunity to register for either:

- Physics in the Universe
- AP Physics 1

All incoming 10th grade students have a choice of which 10th grade science course to enroll in, if they meet the prerequisites. Please note that a 9th grade student in Biology and the Environment can take AP Physics 1 if he/she feels they meet the criteria outlined on the next page. 9th grade students in AP Environmental Science do NOT have to take AP Physics 1.

Please use the information on the next page to assist students in making the best choice.

What is Physics in the Universe?

Physics in the Universe is a rigorous college preparatory course aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards. This course integrates physical science, earth and space sciences, and engineering. In this laboratory course, students engage in science and engineering practices such as defining problems, planning and carrying out investigations, engaging in argument from evidence and designing solutions to real-world problems. Students will study the connections between forces, motion, and energy as related to the formation of the universe and Earth's structure and composition.

What is AP Physics 1 and how do I decide if this is a course I should consider?

AP Physics 1 is a college level course taught at the high school that focuses on Newtonian mechanics, work, energy, power, mechanical waves, sound and circuits. For more information about this course, please visit the College Board website:

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-physics-1>.

For AP Physics 1, it is required that students:

- have successfully completed Geometry and be concurrently enrolled in Algebra II (or have successfully completed Algebra II).

Students should enroll in AP Physics 1 if:

- they are interested in physics 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);
- they have demonstrated at or above grade level proficiency in science;
- they have demonstrated at or above grade level proficiency in math;
- 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 physics-based topics or desires the opportunity for college credit in a 10th grade course, it is recommended that he/she enroll for the rigorous Physics in the Universe course. All students will have the opportunity to enroll in AP Physics 1 as an elective in 11th or 12th grade if not taken in grade 10.***