

Biology FAQs

- Keystone Biology Exam
 - What is the Keystone Exam?
 - The Keystone is a state standardized assessment of student knowledge in Biology, Algebra, and English literature. Demonstrating proficiency on the Keystone Exam is currently a state-wide graduation requirement.
 - Why does it matter?
 - Students must show proficiency on Keystone exams for high school graduation requirements
 - Score affects the school's rating, which can impact funding and the community rating which can impact property taxes
 - What happens if my student doesn't pass the Keystone exam?
 - Retest the following school year after optional remediation course
 - In some cases, check with the counselor for alternative routes
 - Who takes the Keystone exam?
 - All enrolled Biology I & Advanced Biology I students
- Can a freshman take Advanced Biology I?
 - It is possible to take Adv Bio as a ninth grader. We do want the students to take Earth Systems science first. A student who wants to take Adv. Bio as a ninth grader typically either takes Adv. Earth Science as an 8th grader or takes Adv. Earth Science and Adv. Bio concurrently in ninth grade
- What textbook is used in Biology?
 - Advanced Biology I uses Mader "Biology, 9th ed." which is a college-level science text.
- What qualities make for a successful student?
 - **Advanced Biology I:** Intrinsically motivated, strong reading skills, strong organizational skills, effective time management strategies, analytical thinking skills, advocates for self, strong communication (written and verbal) skills, able to keep up with a fast-paced course
 - **Biology I:** Effective time management strategies, advocates for self (willing to ask for help when needed); organizational skills, positive mindset

