

SCIENCE CURRICULUM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Who makes the recommendations and on what is the recommendation based?

A. Recommendations for courses are made by a student's current science teacher based on student grades in both science and math courses, student classroom behaviors, motivation, critical thinking skills, homework habits, as well as student interest.

Q. What happens if I override the recommendation and then my student is struggling?

A. Students will not be allowed to drop from a higher-level course due to poor grades until the first quarter is complete. Requests may be denied even in cases where the student struggles. Any changes are contingent upon space available in the course and may require a significant reconfiguration of the entire student schedule. More information on overrides and the override process can be obtained through the Program of Studies and school counseling department.

NOTE: the deadline to complete the override process is MARCH 31, 2026.

Q. Can I override a teacher recommendation?

A. Yes! We want students to have a balanced schedule and sometimes this means not taking a course for honors even though they received an honors recommendation. Students should consider their interest level in the subject, the amount of homework required, what other courses they are taking, and what extracurricular activities they are involved in when deciding on their courses and levels.

Q. Why might a student take honors one year and not the next?

A. While physics, chemistry, and biology are all sciences, they are very different disciplines and one area may pique a student's interest while another may not. This is perfectly understandable and acceptable.

Q. If my student is enrolled in a standard level class does that mean they can't take an AP science course later?

A. There are no "tracks" in science. Students may move levels from one year to the next and can work their way up to AP level courses regardless of the level course they took in the past.

Q. How many science courses can my student take at once?

A. Students may take a science course as an elective in the same year that they have another science course (doubling up is allowed). However, in an effort to allow all students to experience a well-rounded education and to balance course opportunities for all, one student may NOT take three science courses in one year.

Q. Are there any additional requirements for AP courses?

A. AP courses may require homework over vacations during the school year.