

Please read this ENTIRE document.

Course length: Year-Long Open to grades: 10, 11, 12 (Biology is taken in 10th grade in the Priory science sequence.)

Prerequisite: Physics or Honors Physics, entrance exam, and teacher recommendation from your current science teacher

Graduation requirement: Satisfies Science requirement

This is a year-long survey course designed to teach students the concepts and principles of biology. This course is a faster-paced, rigorous, and more in-depth version of Biology. Students will develop a conceptual framework for modern biology and recognize unifying themes that integrate the major topics of biology. Students will learn about the scientific process, molecules and cells, cellular reproduction and genetics, the diversity of life, the form and function of animals, and ecology. Laboratory activities stress the development of important skills such as detailed observation, accurate recording, experimental design, data interpretation, analysis, and critical thinking. The honors class will move at a faster pace than Biology and will be expected to handle deeper content. Throughout the year, case studies are used regularly not only to teach scientific concepts and content but also to practice skills and critical thinking. Cases are based on contemporary science problems that students encounter in the news, and thus the use of cases fosters science relevancy in the classroom. This course is a lecture/discussion/activities/lab class that will be challenging and rewarding.

Entrance Exam

- If you are applying for Honors Biology, you **MUST take an entrance exam.** You also must attend a mandatory information session. At that session, **you will be given two chapters as a sample reading and to study (Ch 2 & Ch 9 from our current textbook).** Giving you sample chapters from the class, helps you to understand the reading comprehension level of the textbook. I will also talk to your current science teacher for a teacher recommendation on your aptitude, interest, and work ethic that you have demonstrated this year in class, as well as your communication and collaboration skills.

What is the exam for?

The purpose of having an entrance requirement is designed to help **YOU** see clearly the reading level of the textbook and expectations of this course and to **help discern** IF this course is a good fit **based on your reading comprehension skills in science.** **There is a minimum grade required on the exam and a teacher recommendation to be invited to sign up for the course.**

The exam will give an indication of your:

- General knowledge of basic science principles
- Reading ability, comprehension, synthesis, and retention of key concepts based on the sample readings (Ch 2, 9)
- Data analysis skills
- Ability to synthesize and communicate scientific concepts in writing (in the form of short answer questions)

The exam has several parts:

time length: 60 minutes *

(*if you have testing accommodations, you MUST communicate with Ms. Parker 72 hours prior to the test so that she knows and you can use your accommodations.)

– objective questions directly relating to the sample chapters you were asked to read for this exam (multiple choice)

– experimental design scenario (free-response)

– data analysis – may include reading, graphing, and interpreting data (free-response)

– short answer questions about a scientific concept directly related to the content in the sample chapters (free-response – responses only need to be 3 – 5 sentences in length, additional labeled diagrams welcome)

TEST DATES: Per the Priory Placement Testing calendar (info will be communicated to students/parents via administration) **Must come on the correct day.**