



BHS COURSE COMPARISON GUIDE

PHYSICAL SCIENCE & HONORS BIOLOGY

Science

General Descriptions

Physical Science

Provides students with a fundamental understanding of the interrelationships of matter and energy. Basic concepts of Chemistry, Physics, and Astronomy will be introduced to help provide a foundation for later course work.

Honors Biology

The course focuses on Biology at the molecular level by incorporating aspects of chemistry to help students better understand the different biological concepts. Over the course of the academic year, the course gradually shifts from molecules, to cells, to individuals, to populations, and then on to the biosphere.

Physical Science students who typically perform well in the class...

- ◆ complete their assigned homework
- ◆ ask questions and invest time preparing for tests and quizzes for at least 2-3 days leading up to the test/quiz date.
- ◆ perform better in a more guided environment / setting
- ◆ benefit from more time in class to cover course topics and review materials with his/her peers and the teacher.
- ◆ are also planning to take a regular / standard level of math (typically Algebra I) during the same academic year.

Honors Biology students also...

- ◆ accept greater responsibility to seek out additional help outside of class without teacher prompting (as needed)
- ◆ are typically more independent and already possess strengths in being a 'self-starter'
- ◆ have already started to develop a strong ability to apply and synthesis material (as oppose to memorization)
- ◆ are prepared to apply material from the assigned reading within the class setting on the follow day (s).
- ◆ possess advanced math skills / understanding (due to the enhanced Science track for students who begin with Honors Biology; resulting in taking Chemistry and Physics earlier)

From a student's perspective...

'We (as students) for some reason have this idea that if I take Physical Science then I won't have the option to follow the 'honors track' for Science; which isn't true. Physical Science helps students prepare for Biology and Chemistry and if you take Physical Science, you can always take Honors Biology, Honors Chemistry and any AP science courses as a senior.' - Bexley Student (Junior)

SCIENCE REQUIREMENTS & COURSE PROGRESSIONS

Science Requirements for Graduation

Students are required to complete 3.0 science units as part of meeting his/her overall graduation requirements. The units must include 1 unit of a physical science, 1 unit of a life science and 1 unit of advanced science in one or more of the following: chemistry, physics or other physical science; advanced biology or other life science; astronomy, physical geology or other earth or space science.

****NOTE:** students who enroll in Honors Biology as a freshmen cannot 'go back' and take the Physical Science class as part of meeting the physical science graduation requirements. Students starting in Honors Biology will complete a Chemistry course and then a Physics course OR any advanced science offering (AP level).

Physical Science Progression

Physical Science



Biology or Honors Biology



Chemistry or Honors Chemistry



Options for 4th Year (not required for graduation):
A.P. Environmental
A.P. Biology
Physics / A.P. Physics
A.P. Chemistry

Honors Biology Progression

Honors Biology



Chemistry or Honors Chemistry



Physics or A.P. Physics



Options for 4th Year (not required for graduation):
A.P. Environmental
A.P. Biology
A.P. Physics
A.P. Chemistry

Something important to consider when making your decision...

Keep in mind these are two completely different classes, textbooks, etc. Should you start in one class and move to the other during the first semester, students will need to catch up on the content he/she has missed up until that point due to differences in the curriculum, concepts, etc.