

# SCIENCE PROGRAM

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District 200 high schools consider scientific thinking to be one of the cornerstones of a quality education. Understanding the scientific process, practicing experimentation, recording observations, and evaluating results are fundamental skills that provide a broad understanding of science and its impact on our society.

**Recommended Sequence:** District 200 high school graduation requirements specify the completion of three years or six semesters of science. The District 200 high school science program begins with the freshman level course Physics/Chemistry. This course is required of all students because it provides an appropriate foundation in the scientific method, modes of scientific inquiry, and mastery of fundamental scientific concepts. While most students follow a sequence that includes Physics/Chemistry, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, that sequence is not a District 200 requirement. The science program is intended to be one of choice. Therefore, other sequences of courses within the science department are available and can be designed with the specific interests and abilities of the student as the primary factor in determining that sequence.

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## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT BIOLOGY (A)**

**Length:** *Two Semesters*

**Prerequisite:** *Physics/Chemistry (A), Biology (A), Chemistry (A)*

**Qualifies for:** *Applied Technology Credit*

*This course is subject to a consumable fee.*

Advanced Placement Biology is intended for students who are considering a major in biology, biotechnology or the health fields. The course includes content from three general areas: molecules and cells, heredity and evolution, and organisms and populations. Advanced Placement Biology is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory biology course taken by biology majors. If successfully completed, it offers students the possibility to take upper-level biology courses, or courses for which biology is a prerequisite, as a college freshman. Advanced Placement Biology provides students with the conceptual framework, factual knowledge, and analytical skills necessary to deal with the rapidly changing science of biology.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT CHEMISTRY (A)**

**Length:** *Two Semesters*

**Prerequisite:** *Physics/Chemistry (A) and Chemistry (A)*

**Recommended Prerequisite:** *Concurrent enrollment in Pre-calculus*

**Qualifies for:** *Applied Technology Credit*

*This course is subject to a consumable fee.*

Advanced Placement Chemistry is designed to be the equivalent of the general chemistry course usually taken during the first college year.

Students are expected to attain an in-depth understanding of fundamentals and a reasonable competence in dealing with chemical problems. The course should contribute to the development of the students' abilities to think clearly and to express their ideas, orally and in writing, with clarity and logic. The college course in general chemistry differs qualitatively from the usual first secondary school course in chemistry with respect to the kind of textbook used, the topics covered, the emphasis on chemical calculations and the mathematical formulation of principles, and the kind of laboratory work done by students. Quantitative differences appear in the number of topics treated, the time spent on the course by students, and the nature and the variety of experiments done in the laboratory.

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## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT PHYSICS C (A)**

**Length:** *Two Semesters*

**Prerequisite:** *Physics/Chemistry (A), Physics (A), Calculus or Concurrent Registration in Calculus*

**Qualifies for:** *Applied Technology*

*This course is subject to a consumable fee.*

Advanced Placement Physics C ordinarily forms the first part of the college sequence that serves as the foundation in physics for students majoring in the physical sciences or engineering. The sequence is parallel to or preceded by mathematics courses that include calculus. Methods of calculus are used wherever appropriate in formulating physical principles and in applying them to physical problems. Strong emphasis is placed on solving a variety of challenging problems, some requiring calculus. This course the first part of a sequence which in college is sometimes a very intensive one-year course but often extends over one and one-half to two years, with a laboratory component.

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## **ASTRONOMY (I)**

**Length:** *One Semester*

**Grades:** *10, 11, 12*

**Prerequisite:** *Physics/Chemistry and Algebra 1*

*This course is subject to a consumable fee.*

Astronomy is designed to explain and enhance understanding of the physical properties of the universe, with particular emphasis on our solar system, our galaxy, and our ability to use observational techniques and equipment to explore planets, stars, and other celestial objects and phenomenon. Topics include the historical development of astronomy, the structure, position, and motion of objects within the universe, the life-cycle of celestial objects, and the question of life within the universe.

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## **BIOLOGY (A)**

**Length:** *Two Semesters*

**Grades:** *10, 11, 12*

**Prerequisite:** *Successful completion of Physics/Chemistry A level or teacher recommendation*

*This course is subject to a consumable fee.*

Biology A level is a laboratory-based course designed for students who wish to learn more

about the biological sciences. Students should be prepared for a significant amount of reading outside the classroom setting as well as detailed laboratory write-ups.

First semester includes an in-depth study of the definition of "life" from a scientific vantage point. Topics include the interaction of humans and other biota within the biosphere, the chemical nature of life, the cellular composition of all-living things, genetics, and biotechnology. Second semester surveys scientific theories on the origin and diversification of life, classification of organisms, and human systems. Students should be prepared for accelerated, in-depth content learning in addition to extensive reading, individual and group projects, and writing.

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## **BIOLOGY (R, I)**

**Length:** *Two Semesters*

**Grades:** *10, 11, 12*

**Prerequisite:** *Physics/Chemistry I or R level or teacher recommendation*

*This course is subject to a consumable fee.*

Biology includes an in-depth study of the scientific way of knowing and the definition of "life" from a scientific vantage point. Topics include the chemical nature of life, the cellular composition of all-living things, genetics, and biotechnology. The second semester surveys scientific theories on the diversification of life, classification of organisms, human systems, and the interaction of humans and other biota within the biosphere. Students should be prepared for daily assignments including significant reading, projects, and writing.

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## **CHEMISTRY (A)**

**Length:** *Two Semesters*

**Grades:** *10, 11, 12*

**Prerequisite:** *Algebra 1 and Physics/Chemistry (A), Concurrent enrollment in Algebra 2 & Trigonometry*

*This course is subject to a consumable fee.*

Chemistry, A level, builds upon the Physics/Chemistry A level curriculum. It is a rigorous course that requires students to be self-directed, have motivationally strong study skills, and have strong reading comprehension skills.

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The course is designed to give students an opportunity to study many traditional chemical topics at an advanced level with regard to lab work, class discussion, and homework.

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## **CHEMISTRY (I)**

**Length:** Two Semesters

**Grades:** 10, 11, 12

**Prerequisites:** Algebra I and

Physics/Chemistry (I)

*This course is subject to a consumable fee.*

Building on the Physics/Chemistry (I) curriculum, Chemistry (I) is a laboratory-based course designed for the college bound student. Major topics covered include: the structure of matter, chemical change and chemical reactions, organic chemistry, energy, and acid/base interactions. Students will utilize learning approaches that include hands-on work, reading strategies, and written expression. Students should be prepared to employ math skills, complete daily homework, and work cooperatively with others. Scientific reasoning and problem solving, as well as some self-directed learning are expected.

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## **EARTH SCIENCE (R)**

**Length:** Two Semesters

**Grades:** 10, 11, 12

*This course is subject to a consumable fee.*

Earth Science is the study of the relationship of Earth within the solar system and universe as well as the physical nature of earth itself. Students explore topics including the origins of the planet, the geological methods for determining the age of geologic objects, the methods by which mountains, plains, valleys, and bodies of water are created and changed, and the interaction of organisms and the physical planet. Emphasis is placed on learning strategies, organizational skills, note taking, and laboratory skills.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY (I)**

**Length:** Two Semesters

**Grades:** 11, 12

**Prerequisite:** Physics/Chemistry (I or A),  
Biology (I or A)

**Recommended Prerequisite:** Chemistry or  
concurrent enrollment in Chemistry

*This course is subject to a consumable fee.*

Environmental Biology is a second year biology course designed for juniors and seniors who wish to investigate both local and global environmental issues. The principle goal is to facilitate the development of a literate environmental citizen capable of making informed decisions regarding the environment. Traditional book work is combined with weekly field studies and data collection with an emphasis on problem solving and critical thinking. During first semester, students investigate the plants, animals, and water ecology of local ecosystems. Second semester students explore global issues such as world population, biodiversity, pollution, and mankind's relation to the environment.

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## **GEOLOGY (I)**

**Length:** One Semester

**Grades:** 10, 11, 12

**Prerequisite:** Physics/Chemistry and one year  
of high school math

*This course is subject to a consumable fee.*

Geology introduces students to the fundamentals of the Earth's composition and physical character. Topics include landforms and their evolution, plate tectonics, the fossil record, and the physical properties and composition of rocks and minerals. Atmospheric dynamics such as wind, rain, heat, and climate are also covered extensively, including laboratory experiences designed to measure heat, motion, force, and porosity.

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## PHYSICS (A)

**Length:** Two Semesters

**Grades:** 10, 11, 12

**Prerequisite:** Physics/Chemistry (A), Algebra 2 & Trigonometry

**Recommended Prerequisite:** Concurrent enrollment in Precalculus

*This course is subject to a consumable fee.*

Physics A level curriculum is designed to expand on topics covered in Physics/Chemistry A level. It provides a background in the physical laws that describe our universe. Areas of study include motion, forces, energy, light, electricity, magnetism and optics. This course relies heavily on laboratory experimentation and mathematical modeling.

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## PHYSICS (I)

**Length:** Two Semesters

**Grades:** 10, 11, 12

**Prerequisite:** Physics/Chemistry (I), Algebra 1

**Recommended Prerequisite:** Concurrent enrollment in Algebra 2 & Trigonometry

*This course is subject to a consumable fee.*

Physics, I level, is designed to expand on topics covered in Physics/Chemistry I. The curriculum is designed for college-bound students. It gives students an understanding of major concepts of physics in a laboratory setting. An understanding of algebra is required to solve problems presented in this course. Topics include: forces, energy, motion, waves, light, and electricity.

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## PHYSICS/CHEMISTRY (A)

**Length:** Two Semesters

**Grade:** 9

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Algebra 1 or concurrent registration in Geometry

*This course is subject to a consumable fee.*

Physics/Chemistry is a laboratory course that has a quantitative and qualitative approach to Physics and Chemistry. Algebra skills are necessary for success in this level of Physics/Chemistry. Students should be prepared for daily assignments that are both conceptual and mathematical, significant reading with note taking, projects, and report writing.

The Physics semester includes an introduction to scientific thinking and the importance of empirical measurement in science. Topics explore the interaction of matter and energy. Areas of study include motion, forces, energy, gravitational forces, and projectile motion. The Chemistry semester topics include properties of matter, atomic structure, nuclear chemistry, chemical bonding, the periodic table, types of reactions, and acids and bases.

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## PHYSICS/CHEMISTRY (R, I)

**Length:** Two Semesters

**Grade:** 9

*This course is subject to a consumable fee.*

Physics/Chemistry is a laboratory course that has a quantitative and qualitative approach to Physics and Chemistry. The Physics semester includes a study of the scientific way of knowing and the importance of empirical measurement in science. The following topics explore the interaction of matter and energy: motion, forces, energy, work, gravitational forces, projectile motion, and wave behavior in light and light properties. The Chemistry semester topics include properties of matter, atomic structure, nuclear chemistry, chemical bonding, the periodic table, types of reactions, and acids and bases.