



**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL**

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January 13, 2023  
**Bulletin #SP 23-128 DSCOS**

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**Action By:  
Information Only**

**TO:** Secondary Principals

**FROM:** Edward C. Tierney, Deputy Superintendent/Chief of Schools *ECT*

**SUBJECT:** **GRADES 6-12 SCIENCE RECOMMENDED COURSE PROGRESSION**

The Division of Teaching and Learning recognizes the importance of providing appropriate and rigorous courses for all students. To assist schools with making scheduling decisions, the attached recommended progressions in science provide recommended course sequences for students of varying needs while maintaining high standards and rigorous expectations. As always, student placement should be based on several factors including teacher input, multiple sources of assessment data, and parent/student requests.

**Essential Notes for Middle School Principals:**

- All Grade 8 students, regardless of course enrollment, must take the Statewide Science Assessment.
- When enrolling students in Physical Science Honors, please consider the following:
  - Students who have **not** taken both Grade 6 and Grade 7 Accelerated/Honors have **not** received instruction in all the Grade 8 Science Standards, which are assessed on the Statewide Science Assessment. These students will need additional support. This may be a separate support class (such as Grade 8 Science) or the support may be embedded into the Physical Science Honors class.
- Physical Science Honors taken in middle school will count towards the Physical Science graduation requirement but these students will still need to take Biology 1 and two additional Equally Rigorous (EQ) Science courses in Grades 9-12.

**Essential Notes for High School Principals:**

- All Palm Beach County students must earn three Science credits for graduation. One credit must be in Biology, one credit must be in the Physical Sciences, and the third credit must be an Equally Rigorous (EQ) course. At least three credits must be earned while in Grades 9-12.

- It is expected that students enrolled in AP/AICE Biology, Chemistry, or Physics have already taken the respective HS course at either the Regular or Honors level. The content in the HS course is foundational to the content in the AP/AICE course and should be mastered first in order to maximize student success in the AP/AICE course.
- Recommended criteria for accelerating students directly into AP/AICE Biology/Chemistry/Physics without prior enrollment in HS courses:
  - Teacher completes all required AP/AICE training.
  - Teacher participates in ongoing AP/AICE professional development.
  - Biology & Chemistry: Student scores 4 or higher on most recent ELA, Mathematics, and Science State Assessments.
  - Physics: Student passes Algebra 2 with 3.0 or higher.
- For Marine Science or Environmental Science (at any level), it is recommended that students complete both Biology and Chemistry (at any level) before enrolling. A foundational understanding of both Biology and Chemistry will maximize the success of these rigorous courses.

MJB/ECT/GS/EC/RO/JD:jc

Attachments

Approved:   
Michael J. Burke, Superintendent

## Middle School Science Recommended Progression - FY24

Grade 6 Students		Grade 7 Students		Grade 8 Students ALL Grade 8 students take the Grade 8 SSA	
Prior Year Results <sup>1</sup>	Recommended Course Placement	Prior Year Results <sup>1</sup>	Recommended Course Placement	Prior Year Results <sup>1</sup>	Recommended Course Placement
Grade 5 SSA Level 4-5	<b>M/J Comprehensive Science 1 Accelerated/Honors</b>	Grade 6 EOY 75% or above <sup>2</sup>	<b>M/J Comprehensive Science 2 Accelerated/Honors</b>	Grade 7 EOY 75% or above <sup>2</sup>	<b>Physical Science Honors<sup>3</sup> (HS Credit)</b>
Grade 5 SSA Level 3	<b>M/J Comprehensive Science 1 Advanced</b>	Grade 6 EOY 50% or above <sup>2</sup>	<b>M/J Comprehensive Science 2 Advanced</b>	Grade 7 EOY 50% or above <sup>2</sup>	<b>M/J Comprehensive Science 3 Advanced AND/OR Physical Science Honors<sup>3</sup> (HS Credit)</b>
Grade 5 SSA Level 1-2	<b>M/J Comprehensive Science 1 Regular</b>	Grade 6 EOY 49% or below <sup>2</sup>	<b>M/J Comprehensive Science 2 Regular</b>	Grade 7 EOY 49% or below <sup>2</sup>	<b>M/J Comprehensive Science 3 Regular</b>

<sup>1</sup>As always, student placement should be based on several factors including teacher input, other assessment data, and parent or student request.

<sup>2</sup>End-of-Year (EOY) assessments for Grade 6 Science and Grade 7 Science are available in Unify.

<sup>3</sup>Students who have not taken **BOTH** Grade 6 and Grade 7 Accelerated/Honors have **NOT** received instruction in all the Grade 8 Science Standards, which are assessed on the Grade 8 Statewide Science Assessment. These students will need additional support. This may be a separate support class (such as Grade 8 Science) or the support may be embedded into the Physical Science Honors class.

# High School Science Recommended Progression - FY24

As always, student placement may be based on several factors including teacher input, other assessment data, and parent or student request.  
Equally Rigorous (EQ) Science Courses at the Regular & Honors (R & H) levels offered in Palm Beach County Schools:

Anatomy & Physiology (R & H)	Environmental Science (R & H)
Astronomy (Honors)	Genetics (Honors)
Biology 1 (R & H)	Marine Science 1 (R & H)
Chemistry 1 (R & H)	Physical Science (R & H)
Earth/Space Science (R & H)	Physics 1 (R & H)

Please reference the [2022-23 Florida Course Code Directory](#) for a complete list of EQ courses including those at the AP, IB, and AICE levels.

The following courses meet the physical science requirement:

Astronomy (Honors)	Earth & Space Science (R & H)	Physics 1 (R & H)
Chemistry 1 (R & H)	Physical Science (R & H)	

Optional in  
Grade 8 or 9

Physical Science  
Regular/Honors

Grade 9 or 10

Biology 1  
Regular/Honors

AP/AICE Biology

Chemistry 1  
Regular/Honors

Chemistry 1 Honors  
and  
AP/AICE Biology

Physics 1 Honors  
and/or  
AP/AICE Chemistry

AP/AICE Physics  
Marine Science Honors  
AICE Marine Science  
Environmental Science Honors  
AP Environmental Science  
AICE Environmental Mgmt  
Forensic Science Honors  
Earth-Space Science Honors  
Astronomy Honors  
Genetics Honors

AP/AICE Physics  
Marine Science Honors  
AICE Marine Science  
Environmental Science Honors  
AP Environmental Science  
AICE Environmental Mgmt  
Forensic Science Honors  
Earth-Space Science Honors  
Astronomy Honors  
Genetics Honors

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