High School Science Course Options

HS Science Department Chair - Karen McLean – kmclean@fcps.edu

Regular Education Student Science Course Options

Most science paths require successful completion of the previous science course (C or better) and math co- or prerequisite classes. Please make sure the students have the necessary math skills before registering them for the next science class. Individual student recommendations are based on both performance in current science classes and course requirements for math in individual classes.

Standard diploma requirements – 3 different science discipline credits (for example Bio, Chem, and Geo or Bio, Chem, and Physics)

Advanced studies diploma requirements – 3 different science discipline credits + 1 additional science class

Students thinking about pursuing a science, medical, or engineering field should consider taking Physics 1 as one of their science classes. Most colleges look for Physics if students are considering a science related major.

Students should not take a science elective or a second course in a science discipline until they have completed their requirements for graduation. Many students who are interested in science will take 5 or 6 credits in science.

Students should be reminded that science elective classes (Anatomy, Astronomy, Oceanography) are still science classes and will have some math. These courses do not qualify as one of the 3 required science classes and should not be taken until graduation requirements have been met.

Students who require direct special education services in their science classes should select from course codes typically ending in 51, 71 and 81.

Honors and IB Student Science Course Options

*The top sequence with HL Bio 1 and 2 does not meet FCPS requirements for graduation. Students must take a Physics course (Physics 1 or IB Physics 1) or an Earth Science course (Geosystems, Honors Geosystems, or IB Environmental Systems and Societies SL) as a 5th science credit to meet the required 3 different science discipline credits. Full IB Diploma candidate are exempt from this FCPS requirement IF they meet all requirements for the IB Diploma upon graduation.

Students thinking about pursuing a science, medical, or engineering field should consider taking Physics 1 as one of their science classes. Most colleges look for Physics if students are considering a science related major.

Students should not take a science elective or a second course in a science until they have completed their requirements for graduation or have a clear plan for completing these courses. Many students who are interested in science will take 5 or 6 credits in science.

For IB diploma candidates only:

Students completing the IB Diploma program are required to take one science class at the HL or SL level to complete their IB Group 4 requirement. They may also take an additional science class at the HL or SL level as their IB Group 6 elective. IB Diploma candidates must take a total of 3 HL classes and 3 SL classes or 4 HL classes and 2 SL classes to complete the IB diploma. They may take up to 2 SL classes in the 11th grade towards the IB diploma. They may not take the 2nd year of any HL classes in 11th grade.
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- **a)** Required co-req Alg 2
- **b)** Required pre-req Alg 1 – C or better
- **c)** Alg 1 below C or has not completed Alg 1
- **d)** Bio 1 and Chem 1 required pre-req, IB Chem 1 recommended
- **e)** Required co-req Alg 2 or Pre-calc with Trig, Recommended pre-req C or better in Alg 2
- **f)** Recommended pre-req C or better in Alg 2
- **g)** Required pre-req Bio1 and Chem 1
- **h)** For 11th and 12th grade students, Required pre-req Alg 1
- **i)** Required pre-req HL Bio 1
- **j)** Recommended pre-req B or better in Phys 1, IB Phys 1 required pre-req for HL Phys
- **k)** Students should not take a science elective or a second course in a science field until they have completed their requirements for graduation or have a clear plan for completing these courses.