

## TEACHER CONTACTS

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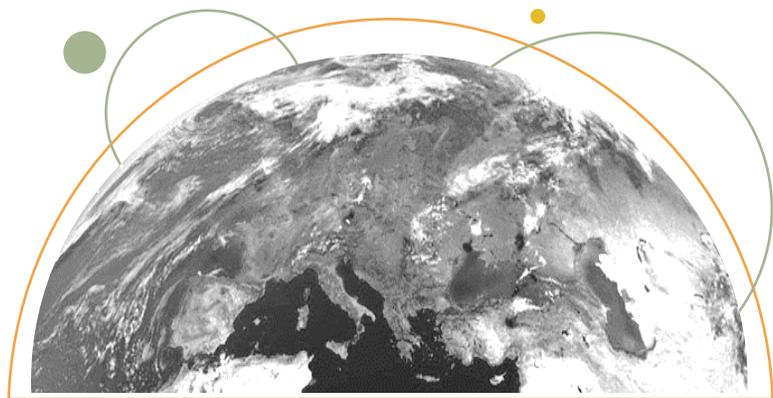


# Advanced Placement Sciences

Saginaw High School

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# AP SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## AP Environmental Science

Students cultivate their understanding of the interrelationships of the natural world through inquiry-based lab investigations and field work as they explore concepts like the four Big Ideas; energy transfer, interactions between earth systems, interactions between different species and the environment, and sustainability.

## AP Physics 1 and 2

AP Physics 1 and AP Physics 2 are algebra-based, introductory college-level physics courses. Students cultivate their understanding of physics through classroom study, in-class activity, and hands-on, inquiry-based laboratory work as they explore concepts like systems, fields, force interactions, change, conservation, and waves.

## AP Biology

AP Biology is an introductory college-level biology course. Students cultivate their understanding of biology through inquiry-based investigations as they explore topics like evolution, energetics, information storage and transfer, and system interactions.

## AP Chemistry

AP Chemistry is an introductory college-level chemistry course. Students cultivate their understanding of chemistry through inquiry-based lab investigations as they explore the four Big Ideas: scale, proportion, and quantity; structure and properties of substances; transformations; and energy.

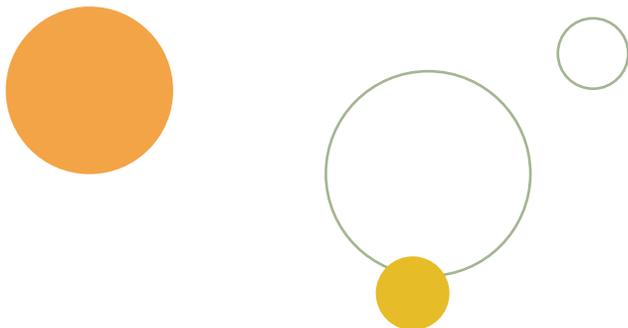
## CONCERNS OF POTENTIAL AP SCIENCE STUDENTS

"I'M NOT SURE HOW WELL I WOULD DO IN AN AP SCIENCE COURSE OR ON AN AP EXAM. WHAT IF I DON'T DO WELL ON THE AP EXAM?"

You risk nothing by taking the AP Exam since you determine which colleges, if any, will receive your grade. Like any other class, if you work hard in the course, you will learn a lot about the subject and yourself as a student. Previous students who did not do as well on the AP exam as they had hoped, have returned and said that their freshman science classes in college were much easier due to their exposure to the content in high school. The benefits of the AP experience far outweigh any challenges.

"WHY DO ALL THAT WORK WHEN I CAN TAKE AN EASIER COURSE AND GET A BETTER GRADE?"

AP courses are weighted 10 points higher, so taking the chance on AP does not hurt one's GPA if you pass the course. If you plan to attend college, you have to take rigorous courses. College admissions officers look at the difficulty of course more than they look at GPA, especially for competitive programs.



## COMMON QUESTIONS

What are the advantages of taking an AP Science Course?

- Study a subject in greater depth through challenging curriculum
- Tuition savings by students and parents
- Early assessment of student's ability to perform at a college level
- Develop study habits, critical thinking and problem solving skills for academic success

What type of students are successful in AP Science?

**Students who demonstrate a motivation for learning, a strong work ethic and a willingness to actively participate in class should enroll in Advanced Placement Science Courses. Choosing to take an AP Science course can help set you apart, give you a head start on your future and change the way you see yourself and the world.**

What are the recommended Prerequisites for the AP Science Courses?

**Physics 1: Completion of a geometry course and concurrently enrolled in Algebra 2 or Pre-Calculus. Juniors and Seniors tend to be most successful.**

**Chemistry 2: Successful completion of Chemistry 1 and Algebra 2.**

**Biology: Successful completion of Biology 1 and Chemistry 1.**

**Environmental Science: Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry/Physics and at least one year of algebra.**

## COLLEGE CREDITS

### What is the college course equivalent for an AP Science?

Most individual colleges accept grades of 3 or above, but each determines which AP Exam grades to accept for credit. More than 90% of four-year colleges in the United States accept AP credit. Please check with the specific college or university as to their requirements. Go to [www.collegeboard.com/ap/creditpolicy](http://www.collegeboard.com/ap/creditpolicy) to find out more about the AP policies of colleges that interest you.

#### AP Environmental Science:

This course is equivalent to a one semester, introductory college course in environmental science.

#### AP Physics 1:

This course is equivalent to a first semester introductory course in algebra based-physics.

#### AP Physics 2:

This course is equivalent to a second semester introductory college course in algebra-based physics.

#### AP Biology:

A two-semester college introductory biology course for biology majors.

#### AP Chemistry:

A two semester introductory college general chemistry course.

## WHY CHOOSE AP SCIENCE?

### Are you ready for a unique learning experience that will help you succeed in college?

Advanced Placement courses offer students an opportunity to experience college rigor, while still in high school. These courses provide a solid foundation for post-secondary studies and help students stand out in the college admissions process.

AP Science classes are especially helpful for students who intend to pursue a Bachelor of Science in many different subjects such as medicine, geology, sports medicine, engineering, and many others. For many schools, these programs are very competitive, so taking AP classes in high school shows colleges that you are able to handle the rigor of college level science.

