

8th Grade Science Placement



Background

- New York State requires acceleration in two subjects in 8th Grade
- AMS chose math & science to be those courses
- With our current criteria, Ardsley students score high on the Regents Earth Science exams (2/3 of students score 85 or higher)

Science Options for 8th Graders

Science 8 (Co-Taught)

Advanced Science 8

Regents Earth Science

Science 8 (Co-Taught)

The integrated curriculum is as follows:

- Human Body
- Ecology
- Genetics
- Physical Science
- Introduction to Earth Science

** There is a lab component to this class (called LTI) which develops lab skills through units on technology/engineering, human body systems, energy, forces/motion and sustainability/human impact. **

Science 8 (Co-Taught)

Taught by two teachers (a general educator and a special educator)

The course is modified in how the instruction is delivered – small group work/chunking of material but NOT for content

Advanced Science 8

More rigorous than Science 8:

- Extensive note-taking
- Increased workload
- More student-based learning

(independent work)

- Supplemental activities that enrich the curriculum
- Announced and unannounced quizzes

**** Students in both the Science 8 and Advanced Science 8 courses usually take the NYS Intermediate Level Science (ILS) Exam at the end of the school year.**

This is a two-part/2 day exam: 1 day for the lab portion and 1 day for the written portion.

REGENTS Earth Science

The curriculum is as follows:

Geology

Astronomy

Meteorology

All students placed into the Regents Earth Science course **usually** take the Regents Exam at the end of the school year.

This is also a two-part/2 day exam:
1 day for the lab portion and 1 day for the written portion.

Considerations for Taking Advanced Science 8

- This course completes a well-rounded study of science concepts needed for success on the New York State ILS Exam.
- An additional year provides time for student maturation – before beginning the high school curriculum. Some students benefit from the additional year to develop their study skills.

Considerations for Taking Advanced Science 8 (Cont'd)

- There is more time for ideas and concepts to be developed since the material is presented at a slower pace than in Earth Science.
- The rigor of this course appropriately challenges students, preparing them for their high school science classes.
- The lab course is preparatory for future high school lab experiences.

Considerations in Taking Regents Earth Science

- In addition to the challenging content, students will be asked to meet higher expectations:
 - extensive note-taking
 - memorization of content
 - analyzing complex concepts
- ** There is also a lab component to this course

Opportunities to Take AP courses (Advanced Placement)

- If your child takes Earth Science in 8th grade, they can take AP courses as a junior.
- Students who take Advanced Science 8 in 8th grade can also take AP courses if they choose to double up (take two sciences) – for example, Regents Physics and an AP Course OR if they take AP Physics as a stand alone course.

High School Science Opportunities

Recommended Sequence:

Earth Sci → Biology → Chemistry → Physics (3 levels)

8th

9th

10th

11th

9th

10th

11th

12th

College Level Courses

AP Biology
AP Chemistry
AP Physics
AP Environmental
SUPA Physics

Electives

Human Physiology
Forensics
Astronomy
Contemporary Issues

Learning Sequences

Engineering (3
courses)
Science Research (3
year)

STEM Themed Clubs:
Robotics

Science Olympiad

Science Bowl

Ardsley Innovate

Girls

Who Code

Olympiad Exams

Placement Criteria

- Performance in academic classes
 - Science course – **UNIT** test scores
 - Math course – report card averages (**Q1 & Q2**)
 - English course – report card averages (**Q1 & Q2**)
- Classroom behaviors
- Benchmark Assessment – administered in the science classes (**not this current year due to our Continual Learning Plan**)

Placement Decisions

Letters will be sent home the first week
in June.

If there are questions regarding your child's placement, please contact

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Questions