

# High School

# Science Registration



South Washington County Schools - 7362 E. Point Douglas Rd. S. - Cottage Grove, MN 55016

## Graduation and State Requirements

**How many credits of science does my student need to graduate?**

Three years of science instruction are required to graduate. That is equivalent to 9 credits in South Washington County Schools. Four years is recommended for students who are college bound.

**What science classes does my student need to take?**

All students are required to receive instruction in the Minnesota Academic Standards in Science. The 9-12 science standards are organized into the following areas: Nature of Science and Engineering, Physical Science, Earth Science, Life Science, Chemistry, and Physics.

Students graduating in **2012, 2013** and **2014** are to receive instruction in the areas of:

- Nature of Science and Engineering
- Physical Science
- Earth Science
- Life Science

Students graduating in **2015 and beyond** are to receive instruction in the areas of:

- Nature of Science & Engineering
- Physical Science
- Earth Science
- Life Science
- Chemistry or Physics

**My student wants to reach higher level science classes. How can they do this in 4 years?**

The provision known as a Rigorous Course Waiver, allows students who take AP, IB, CIS, and PLTW courses to be exempted from some standards requirements. Students must take biology (and chemistry or physics for graduates in 2015 and after) but can be waived from the physical/Earth science requirement if they enroll in more rigorous course work within the sciences.

**Can my student test out of a science class?**

Yes. School Board policy allows for test out of all high school classes. Talk with your child's counselor for more information.

## Typical Pathway

The traditional path for science is physical science, biology, chemistry, physics. Physical science provides a good foundation for biology, chemistry, physics, PLTW, IB and AP classes. The order courses are taken is not predetermined. Most students that choose to waive physical science take biology their freshman year. Understand that if your student is waived from the physical/Earth science requirement, depending on course choice in later years, it is possible that they may not receive instruction in Earth science, chemistry, physics, or all three.

**Courses that meet the standards requirement:**

Course	Standards met
Physical Science w/ Earth Science Honors Physical Science w/ Earth Science	Nature of Science and Engineering Physical Science Earth Science
Biology IB Prep Biology AP Biology SL IB Biology	Nature of Science and Engineering Life Science
Chemistry Pre-AP Chemistry AP Chemistry SL IB Chemistry	Chemistry
Physics AP Physics IB Physics	Physics

All science course descriptions can be found in the Program of Studies booklet online at: [www.sowashco.k12.mn.us](http://www.sowashco.k12.mn.us)

## Questions?

**East Ridge High School**  
651-768-2300

**Park High School**  
651-768-3700

**Woodbury High School**  
651-768-4400  
WOODBURY ROYALS