

North Kingstown High School Accelerated Science Program

What is the Accelerated Science Program at North Kingstown High School?

Traditionally, students who are not enrolled in the re-engineering CTE Program at North Kingstown High School are enrolled in Introduction to Earth and Physical Science in their ninth grade year. Biology is then taken in the tenth grade, followed by Chemistry in the eleventh grade. Students who are able to place into the Accelerated Science Program will bypass Introduction to Earth and Physical Science and be enrolled in Honors Biology in the ninth grade. Accelerated students will then take Honors Chemistry in the tenth grade and AP Physics 1 in the eleventh grade. The sequence of courses for each program are listed below:

Grade	Traditional Program	Accelerated Program
9	<i>Introduction to Earth and Physical Science</i> (SA, CP, or Honors)	<i>Honors Biology</i>
10	<i>Biology</i> (SA, CP, or Honors)	<i>Honors Chemistry</i>
11	<i>Chemistry</i> (SA, CP, or Honors)	<i>AP Physics 1</i>
12	<i>Elective(s)</i>	<i>Elective(s)</i>

Who is eligible for the Accelerated Science Program?

The Accelerated Science Program is recommended for those students who show an interest in pursuing a major/career in the Science or Engineering Field, however any student who has passed their sixth and seventh grade science classes, along with the first semester of their eighth grade science class is eligible to take the test for entry into the Accelerated Science Program.

What benefits would being in the Accelerated Science Program give a student?

Students who are in the Accelerated Science Program would be able to take both Chemistry and Physics earlier in their high school career, without sacrificing elective spots in their schedule. This path would also allow students to take AP Science classes earlier in their high school career or the ability to take additional AP Science Classes.

If a student is enrolled in the Accelerated Science Program, what requirements will they need to satisfy in order to meet the NKHS Graduation Requirements?

Students in this program would start their high school science education in Honors Biology in the ninth grade. They would be **required** to take Chemistry in the tenth grade, and **required** to take Physics in the eleventh grade.

How does a student sign up for the placement test?

A student who is eligible to take the placement test must sign up online **between Wednesday, December 4th and Thursday, March 12th**. Students can sign up by going to the NKHS Science Department web page and clicking on the Placement Test link.

When will the Accelerated Science Program placement test take place?

The test will take on **Monday, March 16, 2020 at 6 PM** in the North Kingstown High School Cafeteria. The snow date for the exam will Thursday, March 19th.

How will a student know what material to prepare for?

Students who are signed up will be emailed a confirmation email on **February 1st**. This email will also include a link to the NGSS Standards assessed on the exam. After this date, the standards will be made available on the North Kingstown High School Science Department web page.

What do I need to bring to the exam?

On the Thursday prior to the exam (Thursday, March 12) an email will be sent to all students who have signed up for the exam with information about the exam, including when to come to register and what supplies to bring.

How long is the test?

Students will be given 90 minutes to complete the exam unless an IEP/504 exists which includes extra time needed. In this case, an additional 45 minutes (equal to time and a half) will be provided to those students.

When will students be made aware of the results of the test?

Students will be made aware of the results of the test via the email address supplied at the time of signing up no later than Friday, April 17th.

What does proficiency on the Test mean?

By taking the placement test, all students infer their intention of being placed in the Accelerated Science Program at North Kingstown High School. Therefore, any student who scores proficiency will automatically be scheduled into Honors Biology in their 9th grade year as long as they successfully complete their eighth grade science class.

If a student does not place into the Accelerated Science Program, does this mean that students cannot take science classes at the Honors level?

No. The Accelerated Program is one which allows students to achieve taking Biology, Chemistry, and Physics by the end of the 11th grade without having to double up on science courses. While these courses are offered at the Honors level, students enrolled in the Traditional Program can take science courses at either the College Prep or Honors Level. In order for students to be enrolled in Honors Introduction to Earth and Physical Science, a student must be concurrently enrolled in Geometry during the ninth grade year.

If a student is enrolled in the Traditional Science Program, can they transfer into the Accelerated Program after their 9th grade year?

No, but a student can achieve the equivalency of the Accelerated Science Program by taking Physics concurrently with either Biology (in 10th grade) or Chemistry (in eleventh grade).

Who should I contact if I have any questions on the Science Programs at North Kingstown High School or the Placement Test Procedure?

If you have any questions please address them to Richard Sweetman, Science Department Chairperson at North Kingstown High School. You may send questions via email to: richard_sweetman@nksd.net.