

## **HONORS Science students: IMPORTANT Course Selection Information**

Students recommended for an Honors Level science course have the option of taking ONE of the following classes in grade 9:

- Honors Intro Physics (HIP)
- Honors Biology (Hon Bio) *Only possible if also taking Honors AGII*
- Research Methods Honors Biology (RM Hon Bio) *Only possible if also taking Honors AGII*

The following descriptions outline reasons why a student may take one course over the other along with the sequence of courses one could expect to take during 4 years of high school.

### Reasons for taking Honors Biology

- ***The Most Rigorous academic pathway.*** Allows potential for 2 AP sciences prior to graduation. Requires advanced conceptual and mathematical reasoning skills
- ***Taking Honors Bio is the most difficult mathematical pathway*** as students are expected to take chemistry (a course requiring increased mathematical reasoning skills) as Sophomores (a year earlier than students who start in Honors Intro Physics)
- Hon Bio students typically advance through High School as follows:

Grade 9	Hon Bio
Grade 10	Hon Chem
Grade 11	Hon Physics {or any AP science <i>except physics</i> }
Grade 12	Any AP course or Hon. Human Anatomy {or Hon physics}

### Reasons for taking Research Methods Honors Biology

- Same as reasons listed for Honors Bio above . . . AND . . . a desire to complete an independent science fair project with the possibility of advancing to the Regional fair at WPI and also to the State fair at MIT.
- Completing a project is required for this course and various steps in the science fair project process comprise approximately 10% of a student's course grade.
- RM courses meet for two extra days in the 7 day rotation schedule (during 1<sup>st</sup> semester only)

### Reasons for taking Honors Intro Physics

- ***A more conservative academic pathway*** for students who exhibit honors level potential, but they may not be taking Honors AGII or higher, And/Or they want to ensure a greater potential for academic success in upcoming years.
- ***Taking HIP is a mathematically easier pathway*** as the math in HIP is easier than the upper-class Hon. physics course *and* students taking HIP would take chemistry (a course requiring increased mathematical reasoning skills) as Juniors (a year later than students starting in Hon. Bio)
- HIP students typically advance through High School as follows:

Grade 9	HIP
Grade 10	Hon Bio
Grade 11	A level or Hon Chem
Grade 12	An AP science (except physics) or Hon. Human Anatomy

The Choice is yours, but **DECISIONS are FINAL.** Changes hinder the scheduling process. We are often unable to accommodate a switch from one course to another after the course selection process is completed. If you need more info, talk with your science teacher or contact Mr. Hruskoci, the SHS Sci & Engineering director [dhruskoci@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:dhruskoci@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us) 508-841-8836.