

Rockwall ISD Parents,

The secondary science course sequencing in Rockwall ISD is changing to align Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC) with Algebra 1.

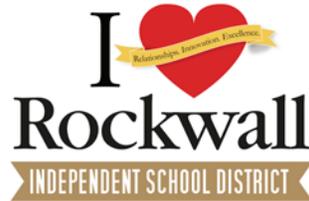
- This change will align science and math courses as well as support student success in IPC, Chemistry, and Physics while students learn and apply similar concepts in both courses.
- Math knowledge and skills for middle school and high school students, particularly Algebra 1 and Algebra 2, are key factors in their success when enrolled in the physical science courses IPC, Chemistry, or Physics.
- The decision to make this change was urged by RISD secondary science teachers and approved by district personnel, based on significant performance gaps between students in both Chemistry and Physics when correlated to their math course enrollment.

For students taking Algebra 1 in 9th grade , the IPC alignment begins 2018-19 .				
	2017-2018	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Grade level	8	9	10	11
Math course	Math 8	Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2
Science course	Science 8 or Pre-AP Science 8	IPC <i>(Provides a bridge between the physical science concepts from 6-8 grades and high school chemistry and physics)</i>	Biology	Chemistry

For students taking Pre-AP Algebra 1 in 8th grade , the Pre-AP IPC alignment begins 2019-20 .				
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Grade level	7	8	9	10
Math course	Pre-AP (Compacted) Math 7	Pre-AP Algebra 1 <i>(will take Algebra 1 STAAR-EOC) (counts as High School Math Credit)</i>	Pre-AP Geometry	Pre-AP Algebra 2
Science course	Pre-AP (Compacted) Science 7	Pre-AP IPC <i>(will take Gr. 8 Science STAAR) (counts as High School Science Credit)</i>	Pre-AP Biology	Pre-AP Chemistry
		<i>(These two linked courses compact three years of science into two. All the state standards of Science 7, Science 8, and IPC are taught in the 4 semesters of Middle School.)* TEKS verification</i>		

* Portions of the 8th grade science course curriculum and the IPC course curriculum contain complimentary physical science TEKS that can be well-combined allowing for the purposeful integration of the math skills into the science instruction for students moving at an accelerated pace.

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Additional benefits of this Rockwall ISD recommended math/science alignment:

- Rockwall ISD high school students will have a ***reduction*** in the number of STAAR-EOCs taken as a freshman, with no more than two EOCs at any grade level.
- Many colleges are looking for ‘strength of schedule’, which is enhanced by aligning math and science courses.

Items to consider if a student chooses not to follow the Rockwall ISD recommended math/science alignment:

- Middle School students who take Pre-AP math and on-level science, will miss out on the opportunity to apply algebra skills while taking the physical science course, Pre-AP IPC in 8th grade. They will also miss the opportunity to earn high school science credit in middle school.
- Middle School students who take Pre-AP science and on-level math, will not learn the Algebra 1 knowledge and skills needed for success in Pre-AP IPC.
- High School students who take Biology with Algebra 1 during 9th grade (rather than the recommended IPC) will be at a disadvantage in Chemistry, as they will not be learning the Algebra 2 knowledge and skills needed for success in that physical science course.
- High School students who take Biology with Algebra 1 during 9th grade (rather than the recommended IPC) will have 3 STAAR End of Course exams that year, rather than only 2.

For additional information, please visit the Rockwall ISD website and navigate:

> academics >> science >>> science course sequencing

<http://www.rockwallisd.com/Page/2027>

You may email Joey Belgard, Secondary Science Coordinator, with clarifying questions.

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(updated 7/10/18)