



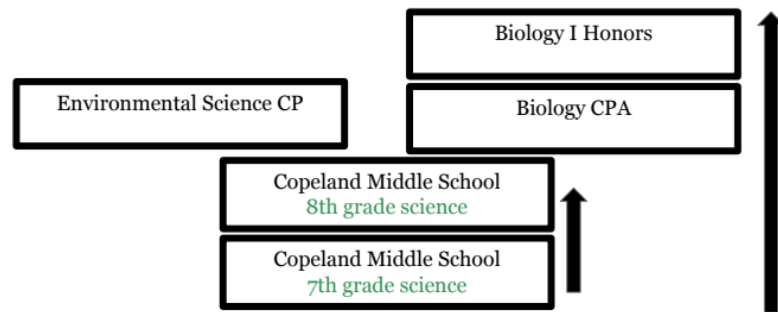
Copeland Middle School is a collaborative community, where all stakeholders work in solidarity, thus creating an environment of mutual-respect, trust, and responsibility while empowering all individuals to be their authentic selves.

Biology 1 Honors Information Night 2024

Thank you for taking the time to join us for the Biology 1 Honors Information Night! Below is the information that will be covered in the presented slides.

What is Biology 1 Honors?

- In high school, students take science courses that focus on one subject.
- As freshmen in the Morris Hills Regional District, students will either take Environmental Science CP (college prep), Biology CPA, or Biology 1 Honors.
- If they take Environmental Science in 9th grade, they will move on to take Biology in 10th grade
- When students take Biology, they are taking a class that is intended for 9th and 10th graders
- Furthermore, Biology 1 Honors means that the course is much more rigorous (than Biology CPA)



What is an Honors Level Course?

- Honors level courses are academically rigorous and challenging courses
- They cover many topics in great detail at a very quick pace
- Because of the rigor and the speed at which content is taught, *a lot of independent learning is required of students*
- In order to find success in taking a high school honors level course as a middle school student, it is important that the student is highly motivated and able to be an independent learner
- In an Honors level Science course, there is a particular focus of this curriculum on the analysis of mathematical data derived from a laboratory study

What are the Units Covered in Biology versus Grade 8 Science?

Biology 1 Honors Curriculum Topics Covered:

- Scientific Inquiry
- Biochemistry
- Cellular Biology
- DNA Biotechnology
- Molecular Genetics
- Mendelian Genetics
- Evolution
- Ecology
- Cellular biochemical processes are studied in detail (unique to Honors)

Grade 8 Science Topics Covered*:

- History of the Earth
- Growth, Structure, and Reproduction of Organisms
- Natural Selection and Adaptations
- Chemical Bonding and Chemical Reactions
- Human Impact
- Wave and Information Technology

*The Grade 8 Science Curriculum will be changing for the 2024-2025 school year. The units listed above are the current units for the 2023-2024 school year.

To make up for the content that students must learn in Grade 8 Science that will not be covered in Biology 1 Honors, students must complete a Summer Assignment.

Students enrolled in Honors Biology are still expected to take the NJSLA-Science state test with the other 8th grade students at the end of the school year. This test covers middle school science topics; it does not cover biology topics other than those also covered in 8th Grade Science)

Information that students learn in Biology 1 Honors is on the NJSLA-Science test that is taken in 11th grade.

Biology 1 Honors 240 Rule

- In order to successfully pass Biology 1 Honors and move on to Chemistry 1 Honors in 9th grade, students must earn a **minimum** of **240** out of a possible **300** points
- The points are determined as follows:
 - 100 points: Average of the student's four marking period grades
 - 100 points: Midterm Exam
 - 100 points: Final Exam
- Sample:

Each
Quarter
87
83
84
86

Midterm
Exam
87

Final
Exam
83

Yearly Average = 85
Exams 87 + 83 = 170

Total = 255

240 Rule Continued

- What Happens if I/my student does not earn 240 points?
 - If the required 240 points are not earned, then the student will not move to Chemistry 1 in 9th grade
 - Instead, the student will repeat Biology 1 Honors or Biology CPA as a 9th grader

High School Science Course Requirements

- All students must take three 5 credit science courses to graduated
- **One 5 credit course must be a Life Science Course (CPB, CPA, or Honors)**
 - Students who take Biology in High School must take Biology CPB, CPA, or Honors as their Life Science Course
 - **Students who take Biology in Copeland must take a *different* life science course**
 - **This means that students are still required to take a life science course in high school; taking biology in 8th grade only means that biology will not be the life science course that they take in high school**
- One 5 credit course must be one of the following:
 - Environmental Science CP (students who take Biology 1 Honors at Copeland do not have this option available)
 - Chemistry 1 CPB, CPA, or Honors
 - Physical Science CPB, Physics CPA, or AP Physics 1
- The last 5 credit course must be an additional laboratory science
- **5 credit Life Science Courses available at MHRD (other than Biology):**
 - **Anatomy & Physiology**
 - **AP Biology**
- This course is intended for students who are *very passionate about science*

Biology 1 Honors at Copeland and Morris Hills Regional District

- Successful completion of Biology 1 Honors at Copeland will allow students to move into Chemistry 1 in 9th grade **if** the student attends Morris Hills or Morris Knolls (or a program offered through MHRD)
- If a student earns the minimum required 240 points, but attends another school (for example, Morris County School of Technology, private school, etc.), the school attended determines whether or not students will have to repeat biology
- This program is only guaranteed to be accepted by Morris Hills Regional District
 - This means that if the students do not attend Morris Hills or Morris Knolls, they will likely have to repeat Biology in High School

Application Process

- The application for Biology 1 Honors can be found at the following link:
 - <https://forms.gle/v7wZLNuggmjCgmsj7>
 - This link will be sent out in the Friday emails from Principal Bayer
- The application will begin accepting responses once the meeting has been concluded
- Please be sure to communicate with your student to ensure that this is the best time to take this rigorous course
 - As a reminder, if a student does not take biology this year, they will still have the opportunity to take the same course in High School
- **Algebra** is a prerequisite/corequisite to be enrolled in Biology
 - A student must have passed high school Algebra in 7th Grade
 - **OR** a student must have passed Pre-Algebra in 7th Grade and be concurrently taking Algebra in 8th Grade
- The following are suggested for students who are interested in applying for Biology 1 Honors in 8th Grade:
 - Current Algebra average of 90 or higher
 - Current Pre-Algebra average of 95 or higher
 - Science 7 average of 95 or higher
 - ELA average of 95 or higher
 - iReady scores in ELA that are at a ninth grade level or above
 - Teacher recommendation (this will be completed by Mrs. O'Brien)
 - Highly motivated to explore higher level courses in science during HS

Application Process

- Students must complete and submit their Google Form Application **no later than Monday, April 22nd, 2024**
- If you have any questions or concerns, please send an email to Mrs. O'Brien at **sobrien@rocktwp.net**