

Analy High School

Science Placement Tests

Eighth Grade Parent Information Sheet

Dear Parents,

The California Science Framework and the California Science Standards requires that all students successfully complete courses in high school level physics, chemistry, earth science and astronomy, as well as the life sciences. The Analy Science Department created the physical science course “PACE” to provide students with exposure to high-level earth science and astronomy topics, as well as a preparation in chemistry and physics for later courses. PACE is a lab based college prep course that earns credit as a CSU lab science and as a UC elective (rather than a lab science). Students have the opportunity, after completing PACE, to take biology, chemistry and physics, including Honors Chemistry, Advanced Biology, AP Physics and AP Biology. These courses fulfill the CSU and UC lab science requirement.

The science placement process for incoming freshmen has been modified from previous years. This year the Analy Science Department received input from parents and middle school science teachers, through a committee process, to address the following placement issues:

- The only course we offer that covers the required earth science and astronomy is the PACE physical science class, which we recommend be taken by all freshmen.
- PACE is a lab based science course and is accepted as lab science for entrance into the CSU system (as well as most private schools), however the UC system recognizes only biology, chemistry and physics classes as fulfilling their lab science entrance requirement.
- The UC system requires 2 years of lab science for entrance, and recommends 3 years. Several of our strongest science students take 4 years. If they take PACE as freshmen, those students wanting to take 4 years of UC recognized lab science need to take two science courses in either their sophomore, junior or senior year.

It is the recommendation of the Analy Science Department that all students take PACE in their freshman year. PACE ensures that all students get a firm foundation in chemistry and physics, which we believe helps prepare them for the more advanced courses we offer. In addition, PACE provides an excellent overview of earth science and astronomy topics that are especially relevant for making scientifically literate citizens. And, contrary to popular belief, it is not a repeat of eighth grade science. Many parents believe that students need 4 years of UC recognized lab science to be admitted to a UC campus, but this is not true. We have several graduates attending UC Berkeley and UC Davis (as well as Stanford) that graduated for Analy with 3 years of UC recognized lab science. We will, however, continue our policy of allowing a relatively small number of outstanding science students to take biology as freshmen.

Incoming freshmen will be placed in science based on their current science grade, science teacher recommendation, their score on the math placement test, and their score on the science placement test. Each of the above criteria will be weighted equally (i.e. 25% each) and combined to make a composite score that will be used for placement. Recommendation forms will be provided to the science teachers at the schools listed below. **If your student is from outside our attendance area (i.e. an inter-district transfer), you should pick up a recommendation form from our counseling office and give it to your student’s current science teacher to complete and return.**

2010 Science Placement Test Dates

Brookhaven - Tuesday May 11th, 1:30 – 3:00 PM

Twin Hills - Thursday May 13th, 1:30 – 3:00 PM

Hillcrest - Tuesday May 18th, 1:30 – 3:00 PM

Out-of-district students – Thursday May 20th, 4:00 – 5:30 in Room L2 at Analy
(OVER for more details...)

Only students that currently have an 'A' in their eighth grade science course and who wish to take biology as freshmen should take the science placement test. Information on the math placement test will be provided by the Analy Math Department. The science placement test is designed for a student currently in eighth grade physical science. It is a 100 question multiple-choice exam administered by a member of the Analy Science Department. Students will be provided with all the materials needed to take the exam, and will have 90 minutes to complete the exam. The test is based on the California STAR eighth grade science test blueprints and the California eighth grade science standards, which may be found at the California Department of Education web site (<http://www.cde.ca.gov>). Science classes at Analy have fixed class sizes for safety reasons, so the placement process must be completed this spring in order to put together the master schedule. For this reason, the science placement test cannot be retaken, and a retake of the math placement test will not be considered in the science placement process.

When your student takes the placement exam, they will be given their Analy ID number. Results of the placement process (i.e. those placed in biology) will be posted on line by this ID number after June 3rd (<http://staff.analyhighschool.org/jcompagno/>). The results of the placement process will also be sent to the eighth grade science teachers of each of the schools listed above. Since the teacher recommendations need to be confidential, details of the selection process (such as your student's composite score) will not be available. Students who sign up for biology during registration who are not placed in biology will be put on a wait list (in order of composite score) for any openings that occur in the fall.