

Strath Haven Middle School Science Department Course Placement Criteria

In the Wallingford-Swarthmore School District, our goal is to provide an appropriate learning environment for each student. In response to the standards-based initiative in Pennsylvania, the science department, along with building and district administration, has established criteria for placement into the **Honors** level science course in ninth grade. The criteria reflect the rigor of the Pennsylvania Common Core State Standards, the alignment to critical mathematics skills, and the work abilities necessary for success in the honors level courses.

Placement Process:

1. In late January, teachers will begin the Science placement process using the criteria below for the Honors Level course. Placement is a careful consideration for all students with the intent of maintaining the integrity and rigor of the Honors Level course and providing appropriate challenge for students.
2. Teachers will submit the placement and *continue to monitor* students for potential shifts in essential science skills, mathematical achievement, and the ability to work independently. In cases where it is deemed appropriate, changes may be made to the initial placement. Teachers are responsible for sharing the placement changes with counselors, the student and the parents.
3. If the Science placement is considered unsatisfactory, a parent has the option of completing a “waiver” form that places their child into an Honors Level course. This form can be obtained from the child’s 8th grade counselor. Students that have been waived into an Honors Level course will not be permitted to exit the course once it begins.

Placement Criteria:

Students must score a 4 or 3 in each of the criteria listed below for eligibility into the Honors level. A total of 10 points is the minimum score for placement into Honors.

Criteria	4	3
Mastery of Essential Science Skills	Student has demonstrated <i>complete</i> science mastery by taking <i>all</i> unit tests at the Black Level and maintaining a <i>90-100%</i> test average for the first two marking periods.	Student has demonstrated a <i>good understanding</i> of the essential science skills by taking <i>80% +</i> of the unit tests at the Black Level and maintaining between a <i>85-100%</i> test average for the first two marking periods.
Math Achievement	Student has scored between <i>80-100%</i> overall grade in <i>Advanced Algebra I Honors</i> or between <i>90-100%</i> overall grade in <i>Enriched Math 8</i> for the first two marking periods.	Student has scored the following overall grade in the first two marking periods: A. <i>80-89%</i> overall grade in Enriched Math 8 B. <i>90-100%</i> in Math 8.
Working Independence	Student excels during independent work and is able to produce high quality work without assistance. Student takes advantage of <i>80-100%</i> black level assignments in class and enrichment opportunities.	Student is able to work independently and produce quality work with little assistance. Student takes advantage of <i>70-79%</i> black level assignments in class and enrichment opportunities.