

Dear MSJHS families,

Many of you are considering enrolling in one or more AP Science courses. Success in an AP Science course is not only a rewarding experience, it is also a challenging one. In an effort to enroll in the most rigorous courses offered here at Mission San Jose, many students overlook the reality of achieving success in any AP course, but specifically in Science. As a result, many students and their families endure the school year with anxiety and frustration because there is a discrepancy of expectations between the teachers and students.

Before you enroll in an AP Science course, please thoughtfully consider and understand the expectations set forth by Mission's AP instructors, should you decide to enroll.

1. In order to be eligible, you must complete all prerequisite classes with a grade of B or higher. Prerequisites are established to ensure that you have mastered the background knowledge necessary for a foundational understanding of the AP curriculum.
2. AP courses are college-level courses, designed to cover college-level curricula as determined by the College Board. Your AP instructor will go at a rigorous pace and in greater depth, in effort to complete the curriculum before the AP exam. As a result, your aptitude in the subject is expected to commensurate with the advanced level of this course.
3. Mastering the AP curriculum requires a commitment to the course. You are responsible for managing time wisely, as you should spend about 1 hour per day, including weekends, on each AP Science course.
4. Since AP courses are college-level, AP instructors expect you to independently connect multiple conceptual and computational aspects to draw conclusions using inductive and deductive reasoning.
5. AP Sciences are lab-based college courses. You will spend many hours working on group labs while completing other aspects of the curriculum. If you do not enjoy cooperative, hands-on activities, then you should reconsider signing up for an AP level Science course. Furthermore, AP Sciences require regular attendance (at least 80%). Missing too many classes due to extra-curricular activities will impede on your academic performance.
6. Perhaps the most important of all....While AP teachers at MSJHS are committed to helping all students achieve and excel in their academic endeavors, they also want to emphasize academic maturity. How much guidance provided varies from teacher to teacher, at their discretion. However, all instructors expect self-advocacy: you are the one learning the material, not anyone else; you are expected to know what you need help on, not anyone else. If you need help, then reach out to your teachers, by attending STEM Success, and/or by developing self-discipline.
7. NOTE: starting 2011-12 it is against our Board's policy to change the students' course grade based on their AP exam score

We strongly recommend that *you*, the student, make the decision that is *right for you*.

Sai Kumar
AP Physics I
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AP Physics I

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AP Biology

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I understand the aforementioned AP science course expectations and agree to take ownership for my learning.

Student Name (Print clearly): _____ Student ID#: _____ Current Chem Grade: _____

Student Signature: _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____