

## *8<sup>th</sup> grade Exemption from Integrated Science 1-4*

The purpose of Littleton High School Science exemption process is to have all students placed in the proper course. Most freshmen take Integrated Science 1-2, a course in which students focus on writing laboratory reports, evaluate scientific information and understanding an integrated science curriculum. A few freshmen each year show, through a series of tasks, that they are ready to go into a typically junior level course, usually Chemistry.

*A letter is sent out during April of the spring semester to every middle school science teacher of every 8<sup>th</sup> grade student enrolled at Littleton High School, (both in and out of district) for their upcoming freshman year. The letter asks 8<sup>th</sup> grade science teachers for a list of students whom they think are capable of going into a junior level course, such as Chemistry. Once the student is recommended, that student is sent a packet and can choose to go through an exemption process for Littleton High School Science.*

### ***REQUIREMENTS FOR POSSIBLE EXEMPTION OF INTEGRATED SCIENCE 1-4***

1. **Teacher recommendation:** A recommendation from the student's 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher describing science skills, understanding of science concepts, cooperative group skills, maturity, as well as study and work habits that the student has demonstrated throughout their 8<sup>th</sup> grade science course.
2. **Experimental Design Components:** Students will use the Littleton High School Science Laboratory Guide to write a lab report based on information provided. The student will demonstrate the ability to hypothesize, calculate, graph and analyzing data.
3. **Evaluation of Scientific Information:** Students will write an accurate and well-supported evaluation of scientific text, and assess the validity of the scientific text. The text and rubric are provided by Littleton High School.
4. **Sample of 8<sup>th</sup> grade Laboratory Work:** Students must submit a lab that was completed in 8<sup>th</sup> grade which shows the student's best work and is in a complete lab report format.
5. **Math Requirements:** Success in chemistry and physics is dependent a working ability in algebra, therefore a student must be enrolled in or have passed Algebra in middle school.

Once an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student has a teacher recommendation suggesting readiness for chemistry and a completed packet with the above components submitted, the work will be evaluated by at least four members of the LHS Science Department. Upon agreement of these teachers, a placement will be made for the student's freshman year science course. Students will be sent a letter by the end of the school year letting them know their placement.

*\*\*If a student does not make it into a junior level science course (like Chemistry or Physics) for their freshman year, they still have an opportunity to exempt out of Integrated Science 3-4 and go into Chemistry (or other electives) their sophomore year. **This is the normal accelerated track of advanced science students; this puts them on the track to take AP or IB courses their junior and senior year.***