

8th 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 8th grade student enrolled at Littleton High School, (both in and out of district) for their upcoming freshman year. The letter asks 8th 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 8th 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 8th 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 8th grade Laboratory Work:** Students must submit a lab that was completed in 8th 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 8th 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.