* Selecting this option means that your child will SKIP Life Science.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO NOW?

- MOST STUDENTS WILL BEGIN MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE IN LIFE SCIENCE. Unless you are considering skipping this course, select the Pathway 1 option on your child’s science placement form and return it to your child’s fifth grade teacher.

IS MY CHILD READY FOR SCIENCE PATH TWO? The decision made in the spring of 5th grade is considering whether your child has maturity, motivation, and desire to accelerate in middle school science. Selecting this option means that your child will SKIP Life Science. This content will not be repeated.

- READING AT LEAST TWO GRADES ABOVE GRADE LEVEL STANDARD: The Biology textbook used in 8th grade is written at a 10th grade reading level. For many students, this will be their first experience with an academic text. Being able to read for comprehension is important for students to participate in biology class. To evaluate whether your student may be ready to use the Biology Textbook in 8th Grade, please check your student’s score on the 4th Grade SBA in Reading.

- MATH READINESS TO SUPPORT PATHWAYS IN HIGH SCHOOL: When considering your child’s science pathway, it is important to consider your child’s math readiness. Due to the math requirements in high school science classes, selecting certain science pathways may necessitate adding a non-algebra-based (algebra-based sciences include chemistry and physics) science elective during freshman year or accelerating math in high school, if appropriate for your child. To evaluate whether your student may be prepared to take algebra-based science in 9th grade, please check your student’s 4th grade SBA in Math score.

- LAB BEHAVIORS: Students should consistently demonstrate maturity and cautious behaviors in lab situations where chemical use and safety is a concern. Impulsive behaviors will jeopardize a student’s safety.

- READINESS CRITERIA: Families who wish to select this placement should ensure that their student meets the following Readiness Criteria:
  - A score of 2635 or higher on the 4th Grade SBA in Reading.
  - A score of 2640 or higher on the 4th grade SBA in Math.

QUESTIONS? Please visit http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/academics/core/science, talk to your child’s middle school counselor, or contact Lena Jones, Secondary Science Specialist, at jonesl@issaquah.wednet.edu or Dawn Wallace, Director of Teaching and Learning, at wallaced@issaquah.wednet.edu.