COURSE SEQUENCING

Knowing which science courses to offer your student at the secondary level and when to offer them can seem difficult. In reality, course sequencing for junior high and high school isn't that hard when you know one important fact: A student's mathematics level is the key factor for his or her success or failure in the high school sciences. If you make sure that your child is well prepared mathematically for the science course he or she will take, you will have gone a long way toward assuring your student's academic success.

Here is our recommended timeline for science courses:

GRADE	NOT SCIENCE ORIENTED	SCIENCE ORIENTED	MATH PREREQUISITES	SCIENCE PREREQUISITES
7	General Science	General Science	None	None
8	Physical Science	Physical Science	7th grade math	None
9	Biology*	Biology	None	None
10	Chemistry*	Chemistry	Algebra 1	None
11	Physics*	Physics	Algebra 1, Geometry, basic Trigonometry functions	None
12		Adv. Biology Adv. Chemistry Adv. Physics Marine Biology	None Algebra 2 Pre-calculus None	Biology & Chemistry Chemistry Physics Biology

* An asterisk indicates that these 3 courses can be spread over 4 years for the student who is not science-oriented.

Your student's math level should drive this time line, especially if the student is science-oriented. When the student begins Algebra 1, that's when Biology begins.

Even if your student is not science-oriented, he or she will benefit from exposure to Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. You never know when a lifelong interest may be sparked!