

Science & Science HN AT THOREAU MS:

WHICH ONE IS RIGHT FOR MY STUDENT/me?

Both standard and honors 7th grade Life Science classes follow the same Virginia Department of Education standards (see QR code) ensuring that all students receive a strong foundation in key concepts. The difference lies in how students learn and demonstrate their understanding.



THE HONORS LEARNING PROCESS	HONORS ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Instructional Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increased use of inquiry-based learning, Socratic discussions, and independent research. ● Student Autonomy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More independent discovery tasks and learning from beginning of year ● Depth of Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emphasis on deeper exploration of topics outlined in the VDOE Standards, often incorporating abstract or theoretical applications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complexity of Assessments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assessments require analysis, synthesis, and evaluation (e.g., essays, performance tasks, debates). ● Rigor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assessments challenge students to demonstrate mastery through analysis, evaluation, and creativity. Higher expectations for accuracy, depth, and application of knowledge, with less focus on reteaching. ● Feedback and Reflection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Greater emphasis on self-assessment, reflection, and peer feedback.
IS IT FOR YOU/YOUR STUDENT?	KEY DIFFERENCES: HONORS VS. STANDARD
<p>Are you ready to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Be curious about how things work? <input type="checkbox"/> Work independently and manage your time effectively on long-term assignments or projects? <input type="checkbox"/> Put in extra effort to understand more complex topics? <input type="checkbox"/> Dig deeper into topics and explore advanced or abstract ideas? <input type="checkbox"/> Confidently engage with writing tasks that are more in-depth, such as research or reports? <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in discussions and collaborate with classmates to solve problems? <input type="checkbox"/> Take on creative projects or open-ended tasks that require critical thinking? 	<p>Both Standard and Honors level courses will offer challenging, rigorous learning opportunities for students. Standard courses will offer more *scaffolds to support student learning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In Honors level classes, students will have additional opportunities to extend their learning beyond the standard level curriculum ● In Standard level classes, students will benefit from a slower pace and more guided structures <p>*Scaffolding: Temporary supports used to make learning more accessible and promote student success. Like training wheels, these supports are gradually removed as students gain proficiency.</p>