

**Adlai E. Stevenson High School
Science Vision**

Mission Statement

The science division's mission is to produce responsible learners who use science as a process to make informed decisions, solve problems, and enrich their lives.

Vision Statement

I. Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

It is our goal to provide intellectually challenging science curriculum that emphasizes the connections between the physical, biological, and earth sciences. Continuous and varied assessments of student achievement and instructional programs are crucial. Therefore, the science division will:

- A. Articulate the connections between physical, biological, and earth sciences.
- B. Utilize diverse and authentic assessments, including both formative and summative components.
- C. Collaborate as teams to make decisions on curriculum improvement based on classroom experiences and longitudinal student achievement data.
- D. Promote learning that allows students to effectively use science as a process. This will include inquiry, use of technology, analysis of data, critical thinking skills, communication of data/conclusions, and discrimination of relevant concepts/facts.
- E. Provide authentic learning opportunities that allow students to apply scientific principles to real-life situations.
- F. Encourage connections to historical perspectives, home and community, and careers.
- G. Provide opportunities for students to evaluate and apply science information to local and global ethical issues.

II. Equity and Access: Attention to Individual Students

The science division will value individuals, providing an outstanding science experience for each student. The science division will:

- A. Provide opportunities for each student to accept responsibility for her/his learning.
- B. Involve students in decision-making processes, such as course selection, selection of research topics, etc.

- C. Ensure all students access to technology with respect to science learning.
- D. Ensure that science experiences are accessible to all learners.

III. Working within a Professional Learning Community

Science teachers continue to participate in a variety of professional activities, which increase their knowledge of science content, pedagogy, and assessment of student learning and program success. We value the members of our division both as individuals and professionals. The members of the science division will:

- A. Engage in ongoing professional development.
- B. Collaborate within and between curricular teams, as well as vertically and horizontally between courses to ensure exemplary science curriculum (content and process skills), instructional practices, and student assessment.
- C. Create a supportive, respectful working environment in which all colleagues feel welcome to express ideas and pose questions.

IV. The Climate of Teaching and Learning

An exemplary science program provides opportunities for students to become engaged in their own learning. Science knowledge is best studied within real-life contexts. The science division will:

- A. Create a learning environment in which students collaborate with others responsibly and respectfully.
- B. Create a supportive environment in which students feel free to express and explore a variety of ideas.
- C. Provide and maintain physically safe and well-equipped science lab rooms.

V. Community Engagement:

The science division values collaborative relationships with the extended community. The science division will:

- A. Seek opportunities to collaborate with other SHS divisions.
- B. Articulate with the sender school science teachers.
- C. Continue to promote educational connections between the science division and educational institutions/businesses.