WHEN AND WHY WOULD I TAKE A SUMMER SCHOOL SCIENCE COURSE?
A summer school course might be a good idea if you are thinking of taking at least 2 Grade 12 science courses (SBI4U/I, SCH4U/I, SPH4U). Taking all three sciences in one year would be a very heavy load in addition to limiting your other options. We recommend that any summer course be taken at the BSS Summer Academy.

IF I WANT TO TAKE ALL THREE GRADE 12 SCIENCE COURSES WHAT WOULD BE THE BEST PATHWAY TO DO SO? WHICH COURSE WOULD BE BEST TO TAKE IN SUMMER SCHOOL?
The best science course to take in summer school would be Grade 10 Science (SNC2D) the summer after grade 9. In your grade 10 year you could then take SBI3U and SCH3U, in your grade 11 year you could take SCH4U/I and SPH3U and then in your final year you could take SBI4U/I and SPH4U.

DO I NEED TO TAKE ALL THREE GRADE 12 SCIENCES IF I WANT TO GO INTO SCIENCE AT UNIVERSITY?
There are many science programs offered at university, many of them do not require all 3 grade 12 courses.

To understand which programs require Grade 12 Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics, you should discuss your individual situation with your counselor.

THERE ARE THREE DIFFERENT SCIENCE COURSES OFFERED IN GRADE 11, HOW DO I MAKE MY DECISION ABOUT WHICH ONE(S) TO TAKE?
The answer to this question is complex and depends on many things including your interests and your end goal. In each of Grade 9 and 10 science, you are exposed Biology, Chemistry and Physics so you should have a fairly good idea of which discipline you are interested in and enjoy; however, remember that these courses really just gave a “taste” of these areas of study. A main consideration should also be what you would like to study at university. You should discuss your individual situation with your counselor.

IF I WANT TO TAKE GRADE 12 BIOLOGY (SBI4U OR AP) DO I NEED GRADE 11 CHEMISTRY (SCH3U)?
Although it is not a requirement that you take SCH3U before taking SBI4U or AP Biology, it is strongly recommended. In Grade 12 Biology many biochemical pathways of cell function are explored and therefore a solid understanding of basic chemistry is an asset. Should you wish to take AP Biology it would even be more beneficial for you to have already completed SCH3U as the pace of the course is significantly faster such that you will not have a lot of extra time to catch up on the chemistry as it is required while completing the course.
WHY WOULD I TAKE AN ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSE IN SCIENCE?
You would take an AP Science because it is an area of strength for you. You would also take these courses if you are considering applying to US or UK for specific programs. An AP Science is not required for all students applying to US or UK programs. However, it is recommended if you are considering competitive schools, as it will make you a more competitive applicant.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AND AP AND “REGULAR” SCIENCE?
Remember that whether or not you take an AP or regular Science, you must still meet the expectations outlined by the Ontario Ministry of Education to receive the credit for the course. Therefore, the Science courses cover all of the same material as the regular courses in addition to preparing you for the College Board exam. As such, there is significantly more material covered in the AP courses. In order to be successful in an AP course you should demonstrate excellent initiative and an independent worker as you will be required to complete some units of study outside of regular class time. You will also be required to have a second period in your timetable allotted for completing the laboratory component of the course. You should have a very solid academic standing in the relevant Grade 11 course as well (we recommend that you have achieved at least 85%).

DO I NEED TO BE GOOD AT MATH TO TAKE PHYSICS?
Physics is certainly the science that requires the strongest math skills. You should complete MPM2D before taking SPH3U.