

# Physical Science Syllabus



Matt Abbott [matthew.abbott@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:matthew.abbott@mpls.k12.mn.us)  
Room 230 612-615-9750 (mobile)  
<http://roosevelt.mpls.k12.mn.us/abbott>

Maureen Dowling [maureen.dowling@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:maureen.dowling@mpls.k12.mn.us)  
Rooms 230/313 612-668-4800 ext 48284 (science classroom)  
[http://roosevelt.mpls.k12.mn.us/dowling\\_maureen](http://roosevelt.mpls.k12.mn.us/dowling_maureen)

What is science?



Is my phone charger broken? Or does this outlet just not work? We can use **science** to answer this! Science is curiosity about the world and how it behaves. Science uses **observations** and **experiments** to answer our questions about the physical world.

What are we going to learn?

First Semester	Quarter 1	Unit 0: Introduction to Science
	Quarter 2	Unit 1: Motion & Forces
Second Semester	Quarter 3	Unit 2: Energy & Electricity
		Unit 3: Atomic Structure
	Quarter 4	Unit 4: Atoms & Chemistry
		Unit 5: Chemical Reactions
		Unit 6: Astronomy

What supplies will we need?

We will be responsible for have these things with us **every day**:

- a one-inch three-ring binder
- pens or pencils

What are the expectations for the learning environment?

*In order for all students to meet the expectation of success in all classes and to create an enjoyable, positive, friendly and fun learning environment, we will:*

**Be Here**

**Be Engaged**

**Be Supportive**

**Be Safe**

What is the behavior policy?

We want students to fix mistakes they make and repair any hurt or damage that they cause. Therefore, we try to correct damaging behaviors over just punishing students. When necessary, we will collaborate with school counselors, social workers, and deans regarding these matters. We will also collaborate with Check and Connect regarding absences and tardies when possible.

Can I use my phone?

Students are expected to be engaged and productive with class activities. Cell phones, comparable electronics, and **headphones** often distract students from the learning, and are **not allowed**.

**There are no verbal reminders or warnings.** If you do not follow this expectation:

1. Dean holds the phone until the end of the day
2. Administrator holds the phone until a parent or guardian comes to pick it up

Rarely, we may use cell phones **with teacher permission** for specific class activities

Is attendance important?

“Freshmen who miss more than two weeks of school flunk, on average, at least two classes—no matter whether they arrive at high school with top test scores or below-average scores. In fact, freshmen who arrive with high test scores but miss two weeks of school per semester are more likely to fail a course than freshmen with low test scores who miss just one week” (Consortium on Chicago School Research, 2007).

What if I'm late to class?

Being on time to class is a key factor in our academic success. If you are late, come to the room as quickly as possible. The door will be locked, so you will have to knock appropriately. Late students should enter the room silently and proceed immediately to their assigned seat.

If you have been meeting with a Roosevelt staff member, you need a written pass from them. If you are not able to get to class on time, we need to talk about it about why this is happening.

Can I get a pass?

It is important to stay in the room for as much of class as possible so you don't miss what we are learning. If you need to leave to get a drink or use the restroom, you need a pass from the teacher. Only two students can get a pass at a time. Students getting a drink must use the closest fountain. Passes will only be written for use during student work time. Passes are not written during the first 10 minutes or last 10 minutes of class. Tardy students are unlikely to receive passes. Students who abuse the pass system will be placed on a No Pass List. Abuses of the pass system include going places not written on the pass, being gone for too long, and using passes to go see friends.

---

**What if I'm absent?**

Ask what you missed! Find copies of missing assignments in the room and online. ↓

[www.rooseveltscience.org](http://www.rooseveltscience.org)

If you are missing classes often we will have to talk about what is keeping you from getting to school with you and your family. Also refer to student handbook for school policy and state law.

---

**How does Academic Dishonesty work?**

Students engaged in academic dishonesty will be penalized on the assignment, may be given the opportunity to resubmit the assignment for credit, and they will be reported to their dean for disciplinary action and administration if applicable. Academic Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- cheating on assignments or tests, or helping others cheat
  - copying another student's work, or letting another student copy your work
  - plagiarizing (misrepresenting as one's own anything done by another, e.g., during an open-note quiz)
  - submitting the same or substantially similar papers or creative work for more than one course without consent of all instructors concerned.
  - depriving another of necessary course materials
  - sabotaging another's work or colluding to support malpractice by another student
  - To avoid plagiarism, words and ideas used to support one's argument MUST be acknowledged in all journals, papers and presentations.
- 

**What if I am struggling in Physical Science?**

The best way to improve your science skills is by coming to class on time, being engaged, and asking questions. If you need more help, the AVID elective class offers a good opportunity to study and improve your science skills. Additionally, Abbott, Dowling, and the other 9<sup>th</sup> grade science teachers also offer after school help days. If Abbott (room 230) or Dowling (room 313) are unavailable, feel free to ask Mr. Neufeld (238), or Ms. Vásquez (241), or Ms. Vang (359).

---

**How are labs and quizzes graded in Physical Science?**

Most labs and quizzes will be based around a Learning Target, and graded on a scale of 0 – 8:

Mastery!!!		Proficiency!!		Progress!		No Progress		No Attempt
8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Passing						Not Passing		

---

**How is practice work graded in Physical Science?**

Most practice work will be based around a Learning Target, graded on a scale of 0 – 2:

Mastery!!!	Progress!	No Attempt
2	1	0
Passing		Not Passing

---

**How do our overall class grades work in Physical Science?**

Grades are based on a percentage of total points earned. Our scale is used as follows:

[does not exist] A+	86% B+	73% C+	59% D+
>95% A	81% B	67% C	54% D
91% A-	77% B-	64% C-	50% D-
			<50% F

---

**How much are assignments worth in Physical Science?**

Science work fall into 3 categories, each worth a percentage of the grade:

40% Summative assessments ( <i>projects, quizzes, etc.</i> )	40% Lab assessments ( <i>lab reports, lab projects, etc.</i> )	20% Formative work ( <i>homework, classwork</i> )
---	---	--