



Astronomy

RHS

2023-24

Instructor: Dan Berliner (daniel.berliner@mpls.k12.mn.us)

Room 283

Google Classroom: classroom.google.com

Teacher Page: http://roosevelt.mpls.k12.mn.us/berliner_dan_2

Teacher Schedule

Period 1	Physics
Period 2	Prep Hour
Period 3	IB Physics Yr 1
Period 4	Physics
Period 5	Physics
Period 6	Prep Hour
Period 7	Astronomy

Land Acknowledgement

RHS resides on the land where the water reflects the sky: Mni Sota Makoce (Minnesota). We are occupying the ancestral land of the Dakota, Anishinaabe, and Ho-Chunk peoples. This land was taken illegally by the United States government using treaties it did not honor.

Course Overview

Welcome to astronomy! This is a semester-long elective course that will cover several topics in astronomy. This course will help you in further understanding observational astronomy, telescopes, the Earth and Moon, the solar system, space exploration, astrophysics, stars, nebulae, galaxies, and cosmology. **The expectation is that you are taking this class because you are interested in learning about astronomy, and that you will be responsible for motivating yourself to keep up with the material. This class does not replace any of the required science credits for graduation.**

If you have any concerns about getting supplies, please let Mr. Berliner know.

Materials

- One dedicated folder
- Pencil(s) and pen(s)
- Chromebook or laptop computer

Course Components

- *Google Classroom:* Slides, note sheets, and links to other activities will be on Google Classroom.
- *Videos and Activities:* The nature of astronomy makes it very difficult to do hands-on learning in this class. As awesome as it would be, we can't make a star in the back of the classroom. Also, our class happens during the day. This means we can't do any direct observations of astronomical stuff*. While there will be as many activities as possible, the reality is that most of the learning will happen through notes, pictures, and videos. Please be aware of this as you plan your strategies for learning and studying in this class.

*The sun and moon can be observed during the day, but you shouldn't look at the sun.

- *Quizzes:* At the end of each learning target, there will be a quiz. You will have time in class to complete the quiz. Quizzes may be retaken.

Grading

80% of the grade in this course will be based on quizzes and a final exam. The other 20% will be based on class participation activities. The quizzes will be graded on an 8-point rubric, with a 2 earned for completing the minimum passing requirements, and an 8 earned for performing above and beyond the standards of the class. Keep in mind that earning a 2 out of 8 does not mean doing 2/8 of the work.

7-8: A-/A
5-6: B-/B/B+
3-4: C-/C/C+
2: D-/D/D+
0-1: F

Teacher Responsibilities

As your teacher, I take it as my responsibility to care for your physical and mental wellbeing in my classroom, including your right to a high-quality education. While I always strive to treat every individual with the full respect they deserve, I understand that I may fall short of these goals from time to time. I always promise to earnestly listen to any and all constructive criticism should you at any point feel that I am not living up to my responsibilities.

School-Wide Policies

Attendance: Attending class is the first, and most important, step for learning. All students are expected to attend class on time every day, except for legitimate excused reasons. While attending class does not guarantee a passing grade, poor attendance patterns are the #1 reason for students not passing this class.

Passes: Students must ask the teacher for a pass to leave the class. If the student already has a pass (such as a clinic appointment or a counselor meeting), they should inform the teacher ahead of time so that the teacher is aware when the student is leaving for that meeting. Except in extenuating circumstances, passes will not be given during the first or last ten minutes of class. In this class, it is expected that passes to leave class are used for their intended purpose and for an appropriate length of time. Students will be reminded of these expectations if passes are misused. Repeated misuse of passes will result in a loss of pass privileges for the class for five school days.

Electronics: Bring charged Chromebook or personal laptop computer to class every day. Cell phones are not an acceptable alternative. The classroom does not have extra Chromebooks to loan - see Ms. Hansen in the Media Center if you need to check out a loaner Chromebook for the day.

Other electronic devices, such as cell phones, earbuds, or portable speakers, must not be used in the classroom during class time, unless you are specifically instructed to use them for a learning activity. Students may be on phones during passing time and lunch. If a student is asked to put their phone away, they should do so immediately. The teacher will ask to hold onto the device for the remainder of the hour if the device is not put away. Choosing not to comply will result in a dean being called to the room to confiscate the device for the rest of the day, with escalating consequences for multiple occurrences. [See the full district policy here.](#)

Academic Honesty: Respecting and acknowledging the intellectual property of others, including other people's ideas, words, graphs, diagrams, charts and pictures, photographs, works of music, art or literature. Acknowledge all used sources. It is acceptable to include words, ideas, data, diagrams, tables, graphs, film clips and pictures from books and online sources in assignments. Students must always credit where they have got the information used, both in the body of the written work and on the Works Cited page at the end, using the correct referencing format.

Students' Responsibilities:

- Read and understand the Academic Honesty Policy.
- Students genuinely attempt formative work, with the work or ideas of others fully and correctly acknowledged through correct use of citations, and understand that it is an opportunity to receive feedback on their learning and make plans for improvement.
- Ensure that summative assessment work is authentically their own, with the work or ideas of others fully and correctly acknowledged.
- Comply with all internal school deadlines.
- Understand the definitions of what is considered academic dishonesty.
- Take ownership of learning by asking for clarification of instructions when necessary and seeking help when needed.
- Talk to teachers when feeling overwhelmed to discuss assignments and time management strategies to reduce the stress.
- Report malpractice and help cultivate a culture of academic honesty at their school.

Violation Procedures: First infractions (violations) will be handled by your teacher, subsequent infractions of the policy will involve working with a dean and possibly a counselor or coordinator of a program.