Foundation: Physical Sciences

The physical sciences seek to explore and explain the structure and processes of the physical universe. They seek to understand the fundamental workings of nature, from the behavior of atoms to the functioning of the galaxies. Study of the history, methodologies, concepts, and applications of the physical sciences assists students in becoming scientifically literate. Each course in this category is a broad introduction to one or more of the physical sciences. Courses contribute to the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and help students apply an understanding of scientific thinking to their own lives and careers.

Content Goals
All courses in the Physical Sciences category include the following content:
1. The introduction of methodologies scientists use to explore and understand the physical universe.
2. An understanding of how scientists use observations and theory to explain and predict the structure and processes of the physical universe.
3. An examination of fundamental concepts, principles, and issues of the discipline being studied.

Skills Goals 1 (choose one of the following):
   a) Written communication — the practice of creating and refining messages that educated readers will value; or
   b) Quantitative literacy — a competency and confidence in working with numbers; or
   c) Information literacy – the iterative process of identifying, accessing, evaluating, and synthesizing multiple forms of information.

Skills Goals 2 (choose one of the following):
   a) Oral communication — the practice of effectively communicating verbally with a public audience across a variety of contexts; or
   b) Problem solving — the process of designing and evaluating strategies to answer open-ended questions.