



Classroom Policies and Expectations Physics Honors 2016 - 2017

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Periods open for help: Periods 3 & 5 and by appointment before and after school.
Also during 6th period study hall in room C235A.

Honors Physics

Welcome to a challenging, fun, and exciting year of honors physics. I am looking forward to working with all of you. The following policies and expectations are designed with our high standards of performance in mind. Please take the time to read them carefully. Honors physics class is a fast paced focusing on problem solving. As a prerequisite for this course, an understanding of basic algebra is assumed. The following topics will be covered:

Data analysis	Forces	Electrostatics	Atomic Properties
Linear motion	Momentum	Circuits	Properties of sound
Vectors	Energy	Magnetism	Properties of light
2D Motion	Work and power	Properties of waves	Optics & Lenses

Our textbook is: Conceptual Physics, published by Prentice Hall

Materials and Supplies Required (Every Day)

Three Ring binder	Pencil (NO PENS)
Loose leaf paper	Ruler (optional)
Spiral homework binder (optional)	
Calculator (recommended calculator Texas Instruments Ti-30X IIS or higher)	

Note: Please do not depend on your cell phone for a calculator.

Homework and Practice Problems

Completing work on time is essential for success in any class. You should plan on about a *half hour of work outside of class 3 or 4 times a week*. Keeping up on the reading, lab reports and problem-solving assignments will make the class a lot easier for you.

Practice problems are homework problems that will be reviewed and checked daily. Please note; Physics is a trial and error science, therefore it is your responsibility to check the answers and make corrections to your practice problems as necessary when we review them in class or from the solutions posted on my website. When solving problems, all work **should be done in pencil** with mistakes erased and not crossed out. If you are not sure how to do a problem, just reading the problem and deciding you do not know how to solve the problem is not trying the problem. You are expected to at least the following:

- Write down all given information, equations, or definitions that may apply to the problem.
- Draw a diagram of the problem when applicable.
- Leave enough room to finish the problem in class when we go over the homework.

Homework Problems will be assigned weekly and turned in for a grade. Homework may be either written or done online using the University of Texas Quest system. Written homework assignments are **due when you walk in the door!** To receive full credit, every problem must be done **with complete work shown**. Online homework assignments (otherwise known as **Quest** assignments) are due by the cutoff time in Quest. (Typically at 7:30 am on the due date.)

Extra-curricular activities are not an excuse to fail to complete assignments. It is your responsibility to see me or look on the class schedule and obtain the assignment prior to missing class. This includes and may not be limited to in and out of school field trips, sporting events.

Quick Quizzes and Check Questions

Generally when you arrive in class, there will be a quick quiz or a check question for you to work on.

The quick quizzes are designed to be a review of previous material in order to help me check your understanding of concepts taught and to help you monitor your own progress. Quick quiz grades will be part of your quiz grade. If you are absent the day of a quick quiz you can complete the quiz problem within the make up period and receive an excused grade. If you cannot do the quiz due to a prior absence, try the problem and write absent on the quiz. In doing so, you will receive extra time to complete the quiz and will receive an excuse upon completion.

Check questions are not graded and are also designed to be a review of previous material as well as a preview of upcoming material. When you get to class, you are expected to copy the problem into your notebook, date it and start working on it during for the first couple minutes of class. We will answer the question as a class after attendance has been taken. If you miss a day, you are expected to obtain the check question from another student. It is important to have your notebook in class every day.

Class Notes

A three ring binder is necessary to organize your work for this class. A student's binder should contain all his or her notes, packet, homework and check questions, and quizzes for the unit we are currently working on. You are encouraged to take notes on the reading although you will not be graded on your notes. You may be able to use your notes on check questions and some quick quizzes.

Your work for each unit should be saved until the end of the year. You will need your notes to study for the semester exam.

Labs and activities

Labs and activities are an integral part of learning Physics and must be completed in a timely manner. **If you cannot complete all the lab analysis and questions by the end of the class period, your lab is due when you arrive the next time class meets.** Labs turned in late may receive a reduction for each day late. For excused absences, you are required to make up the lab outside of class. Students are required to complete every lab and makeup work must be completed by the end of each unit.

Assessments-Tests, Quizzes, and the Final

You will be taking tests in this class at the end of each unit; typically each unit is 3 or 4 weeks long which results in about 4 tests per semester. Quizzes will be given throughout the unit (2 or 3 per unit) and should be used by students to judge their own preparedness for unit tests. A comprehensive final will be given at the end of each semester.

Each student must have his or her own calculator for these assessments. Calculators cannot be shared on tests or quizzes. Cell phones cannot be used as calculators on quizzes and tests.

In the case of an absence, you are expected to take missed tests and quizzes outside of class during a free period or before or after school when you return. It is your responsibility to prepare for the makeup test and schedule it as soon as possible. For extended absences it may be necessary to seek help outside of class in order to catch up prior to taking the test. For planned absences, it may be best to take a test prior to your absence if possible.

Late Work

I realize that once in a while things come up where you are unable to complete your homework. On occasion I will accept an assignment one day late if the following process is followed:

First you must email me before school starts to notify me that you cannot complete the assignment. Please indicate why you cannot complete the assignment. Please keep the explanation as simple as possible and let me know when you can have it done. Secondly, I will email back (or use a due date extension in quest) notifying you that I have received your request. To receive full credit for the assignment, you must complete the assignment by the agreed upon date and time.

Grades and Grading:

District Scale: **A 100 - 90%, B 89 - 80%, C 79 - 70%, D 69 - 60%**

- 10% of the grade comes from homework
- 35% from labs, activities and class work
- 10% from quizzes (8% unit quizzes, 2% check questions and quick quizzes)
- 25% from unit tests
- 20% from the semester final exam

Classroom Expectations

1. **Behave RESPECTFULLY.** This includes speaking and listening to others respectfully and respect for another's property and space. In addition to respecting student's property, this lab has computers and other expensive and delicate laboratory equipment that must be used with respect. Behaving respectfully also include not disrupting class by showing up tardy, or unprepared for class or other actions that may waste the precious time of others
2. **Safety.** Students are expected to obey the safety rules of a science lab classroom. For laboratory safety concerns, store your backpack completely under your desk, out of the way.
3. It is the **student's responsibility** to see me for missed work before or after school. Please do not ask me for missed work at the start of class.

If a student cannot follow class rules of proper conduct or lab safety rules, parents or guardians will be contacted and/or the student will be sent for disciplinary action

Nonacademic Electronic Devices

The school policy allows for the use of electronic devices in nonacademic settings such as during passing periods and your lunch period. Electronic devices are allowed in an academic setting at the discretion of the teacher. Unless otherwise directed, all cell phones, I-pods, and game devices are to be stored out of sight with the ringer off once the bell rings. This includes the use of ear-buds and headphones. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action. Calculators used for playing games or other nonacademic use will be treated as nonacademic electronic devices.

An important note about academic dishonesty

As defined in the student handbook Cheating, Plagiarism, and Theft of Intellectual Property will be strictly enforced. Letting another student copy your work is equally as offensive as the person doing the copying. Consequences for cheating even on minor assignments can result in being withdrawn

failed from the class which means you will receive an F for the course and be placed in a study hall for the remainder of the semester. It is also important to note that all incidents are cumulative and cross curricular during a student's attendance in District 117. This means a student could have been caught cheating as a freshman in math, then later caught a second time as a Junior in biology and would then receive an F for that semester of biology at that time. In science classes, depending on the lab assignment, some group collaboration is allowed and expected, however some parts of the lab assignment may be intended for individual work only. Therefore, it may be considered academically dishonest to copy from someone in your lab group. Further details on specific assignments will be clearly outlined by your teacher as needed.

Food and the Classroom

It is a good practice in science to keep our work environment clean. With that said we discourage eating in the science classroom. The consumption of food will be dealt with on a case by case basis as necessary.

When our curriculum involves the handling and/or consumption of food, staff will notify students and parents/guardians in advance. Accommodations and/or alternative assignments will be made available for students with documented allergies. Please contact the classroom teacher or administration with any questions.

PHYSICS NEED TO KNOW FORM – PLEASE SIGN AND DATE

I have read the information regarding classroom expectations for honors physics.

Student

Parent or Guardian

(name)

(name)

(signature)

____/____/____

(date)

(signature)

____/____/____

(date)

Do you have Internet Access at home? yes

no