

Freshman Physics

Mr. Papaleo

Welcome to physics! I look forward to an exciting year together as we take a look around us as to how the world works. Below, I have outlined my expectations for this course.

Textbook: Serway, R. A., & Faughn, J. A. (2008). *Physics*. Austin: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

Other Materials:

- ❖ 3-ring binder
- ❖ Scientific Calculator (I **will not** provide one for you)
- ❖ Pen and Pencil

Course Content:

Physics is all around us. This year we will be studying Newtonian mechanics, energy transformations, wave phenomena, light, electricity, fields, and magnetism. By studying these topics, you will be well prepared for the MCAS exam in June. We will engage in experimentation, problem solving, projects, and, most of all, thinking. It is my goal for you to not only have an appreciation for the physics that you encounter every day, but also to engage in critical thinking. Critical thinking is essential to making informed, educated, and thoughtful decisions in all aspects of life. This year we will learn how to ask meaningful questions and how to seek and evaluate their answers.

Classroom Expectations:

In order to maintain a place conducive to learning, the classroom will be a place of respect. You are expected to be respectful of all others, yourself, and property at all times. Specifically, please know the following:

1. Cheating **WILL NOT** be tolerated. This is disrespectful to me as your teacher and yourself as a student. No assignment is worth trading your character and integrity.
2. You are expected to come to class prepared (with your materials and assignments). I will respect you by doing the same.
3. Do not deface anything that does/does not belong to you including textbooks, tables, and lab equipment.

Also, all rules and guidelines established by the school as laid out in the student handbook will be strictly enforced including, but not limited to, any food or drink in the classroom.

Specific classroom guidelines –

- ❖ Due to the mathematical nature of this class, you are expected to take notes on paper where you can work out the examples.
- ❖ You may not eat or drink anything other than water in the classroom.
- ❖ At **NO TIME** may you use an electronic device (i.e. cell phone, ipod, etc.). These items **WILL** be confiscated and taken to the main office, where

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disciplinary action will be dealt with according to the policy set forth in the student handbook.

Grading Policy:

Grading will be done on a weighted points system such that each type of assignment comprises the following percentage of the quarter's grade:

Tests	40%
Quizzes	25%
Experiments	20%
Homework	15%

Assignments:

- ❖ Homework: Homework will be given on a nightly basis (almost). These assignments will consist of readings from the textbook and problems from the textbook or worksheets. I encourage you to work together while completing the problems, but everyone you must complete the problems yourself. Your homework will be graded for completeness and not correctness and is due at the beginning of each class. Late homework will **NOT** be accepted.
- ❖ Experiments: Labs are an integral part of physics. Each student will be required to turn in an individual report [even when working with a partner(s)]. Laboratory safety procedure must always be followed. **NO** food or drink (including water) will be allowed during laboratory classes.
- ❖ Quizzes: Quizzes will be given during each unit. The quizzes may be announced or unannounced.
- ❖ Exams: Exams will be given at the end of each unit/chapter. A midterm exam will be given (near the end of term 2) as well as a final exam (during finals week in June).
- ❖ Make-ups: It is important that you are here, but if you do miss a day it is **your** responsibility to complete make-up work. In accordance with school policy, you have the two days for every day absent to complete your assignments. Please check the website assignments. Homework and labs that were due the day you are absent are due the day you return.
- ❖ Late work: Late work will **NOT** be accepted. The only exception is for your laboratory reports. For every day late, 10 points will be deducted from your report.

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- ❖ Extra Help: Please feel free to come by with questions and/or concerns. It is best that you let me know in advance if you need to meet with me after school so I can ensure I do not have a meeting or other commitments. I am here to help, but I cannot help if you do not ask. Ask when you have one question...don't let your questions build.
- ❖ Extra Credit: Extra credit will **NOT** be given in this course. Please stay current with the material (see extra help section).

Classroom Information:

When working properly, technology is a wonderful tool. Assignments, assessments, and their due dates can be found on the web. Do not solely depend on this mode. You never know when computers and/or the internet will decide to be uncooperative.

Class webpage:

Email: papaleop@sbregional.org

Phone: 508-324-3115 ext. 787