

ARROWHEAD UNION HIGH SCHOOL

Physics

Syllabus, 2014-2015

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Course Information:

Welcome to Physics class! Here in Physics we study matter, we study energy and we study how they interact with one another. This class will provide a systematic understanding of the fundamental laws governing everything in the universe. This course will give you, the student, a better understanding of the physical world around you. Learning physics has many benefits that I shall not list here (own your own, you shall discover them throughout the year), but instead let you know two of the best: development and refinement of your critical thinking skills coupled with a growth of appreciation for the rules that govern the universe in which we live. It's also a great place to meld together your analytical thinking with lab activities, math, science and technology.

Communication & Assignments

Moodle: <http://moodle.arrowheadschoools.org>
Choose "Science", then "Physics - Tschanz & Streufert"
Enrollment Key: *absphysics*

Assignments will be posted daily on Moodle and at the beginning of class on the projection screen or on the side white board.

If you need help, please email me or come find me. I am available before school and after school. I am happy to help you with homework, lab questions, or any other general questions related to class topics. I enjoy small group student discussions outside of class time. These meetings are often very productive and will help you feel more comfortable with the class material.

Text

Physics, by Serway and Faughn, 2002, Holt

Grades

<u>Percent Scale</u>	<u>Grade Scale</u>	<u>18 Week Grade Breakdown</u>	<u>Semester Grade</u>
100% – 90%	A	10% Homework	18 Week Grade: 85%
89.99 – 80%	B	25% Quizzes	Semester Exam: 15%
79.99% – 70%	C	25% Labs & Projects	
69.99% – 60%	D	40% Tests and Performance Assessments	
59.99% – 0%	F		

Class Materials to be Brought Daily

- 1) Note-taking tools (3 subject notebook or plenty of loose leaf in a binder)
- 2) Scientific Calculator (Trig or Graphing, not a cell phone)
- 3) Large Binder, with class materials neatly organized into the following sections:
 - a) Class Notes
 - b) Homework, Problem Sets, Class Practice
 - c) Labs (see below for more details)
- 4) The textbook does not need to be brought daily. The teacher will announce days the textbook is required.

Behavior

A high standard of behavior is expected.

- 1) **Respect your fellow students.** Practice safe and appropriate behavior.
- 2) **Respect your teacher.** Follow instructions. Speak at appropriate times.
- 3) **Respect our building.** Keep your work area clean.
- 4) **Respect yourself.** Focus during class so that you experience success. *Use electronic devices for class work only and only when instructed to do so.*

Quizzes

Two types of quizzes may be administered: formal and quick checks/surveys/practice. Quick checks, practice quizzes, and surveys are intended to be an informal reflection of your understanding of the material discussed in class. As such, these will be part of your homework grade. Cell phones are not allowed on formal quizzes.

Tests

A major test will be given at the end of each unit. They will require study time. Review materials will be provided. Usually a review session is held the class prior to a major test. This is to get all students prepared so that they can be successful! The test format usually involves problem solving as well as objective-type questions. Test content covered will be much like quizzes, but much more extensive. Cell phones are not allowed on unit tests.

Tips for Success

- 1) Come prepared for class:
 - a) *Positive attitude, ready and willing to learn.*
 - b) In your seat when the bell rings.
 - c) Homework assignment, lab report, or assigned reading complete.
- 2) Take responsibility for your learning:
 - a) *Use electronic devices for class activities only.*
 - b) Seek out help from me if necessary.
 - c) Actively participate in class discussion and labs every day.
 - d) Review your graded labs, quizzes, and tests to determine areas where you may need extra practice.

Test Re-Take Policy

If a student earns a score of 79% or less on any unit test, he or she has the opportunity to apply to take a re-take test. In order to earn this opportunity, the following criteria must be met:

- 1) All missing assignments for the current unit must be submitted.
- 2) Student must have a brief conference before or after school with the instructor.
- 3) Student must provide actual physical evidence of extra practice performed.

The following regulations apply:

- 1) Your retake score will be a replacement of the original score.
- 2) All retakes must be completed within 5 school days following the day when the assessment was handed back in class.
- 3) The highest score attainable on a re-take is an 80%.

Absence Policies

It is best not to miss class! See the Student Handbook for a full explanation of policies related to absences and make up work. Email your teacher or talk to a peer for missing work.

- Excused Absences: All missed work must be made up. If any student is absent for 1-3 days, they will have 3 school days to make-up missed work. Absences, from 4-9 days, will have 5 school days available for making up work. Credit for make-up work may be reduced for those students that exceed the timelines. It is the responsibility of the student and/or parent to make arrangements for all missed work!
- Fieldtrip: Any work missed is the responsibility of the students. Talk about it with your instructor and set something up prior to a fieldtrip absence.
- Unexcused Absences: Any student missing work because of an unexcused absence still must make up work.

Academic Integrity

All work you perform in this class (homework, lab reports, exams, etc.), unless otherwise stated, should be the sole work of the individual who claims it as their own. For this class, cheating is defined as:

- Giving, receiving, or using any unauthorized assistance on any academic work.
- Plagiarism, which includes copying of language, structure, or ideas of another and attributing the work to one's own efforts. "*We worked together on it.*" is never an acceptable reason for plagiarism.
- Attempts to copy, edit, or delete computer files of another person or use of another person's computer account without permission of said file owner or account owner.

All academic work submitted for grading contains an implicit pledge by the student that no unauthorized aid has been received.

Extra Credit and Privileges

Extra credit is available in the form of extra challenge questions on homework assignments. These questions will be presented during the regular grading period. These points will be added to your homework grade. There are no additional extra credit opportunities. Strong performance on labs, quizzes, and tests will have much more impact on your final grade than extra credit opportunities.