

Physics Course Syllabus
2023-2024 School Year
Mr. Gene Wicks

Contact Information:

Email: gwicks@eupschools.org
Web: www.saultschools.org/Page/6220
Phone: (906) 635-3839 ext. 5884
Conference Period: 4th Hour, 10:50-11:40 AM

Physics Course Description:

Physics is an algebra-based science course intended for college-bound 11th and 12th grade students. It surveys fundamental concepts concerning velocity, acceleration, projectile motion, forces, friction, work, energy, momentum, collisions, rotational motion, heat, simple harmonic motion, wave phenomena, sound, light, optics, electric forces, electric fields, magnetism, and subatomic physics. The Physics course relates concepts to everyday life as best as possible so students will better understand the material, and it includes lab experimentation with modern technology.

Purpose Statement:

Physics students will learn problem-solving skills, study skills, and lab skills that will better prepare them to succeed in college science courses. Physics prepares students for engineering, robotics, pre-medical, pre-dental, pre-veterinary, nursing (radiology), medical technology, forensic science, pharmacy, chemistry, environmental science, geology, physics, astronomy, remote-sensing, and climate-related careers. Physics counts as a senior math requirement when taken in grade 12.

Prerequisites:

Students should have a “B-” or better in Algebra 1, Geometry, and Honors Chemistry. Current or prior enrollment in Algebra 2 is strongly recommended.

Course Materials:

We will use *HMH Physics* as our course text. ***You will also need a scientific calculator.*** If a calculator has “log,” “sin,” “cos,” and “tan” keys, then it is a scientific calculator.

Evaluation Criteria:

This course is evaluated on a points-based system. Marking period points are weighted as follows:

- 20 % Homework and Classwork. These assignments may include textbook problems, in-class work, writing assignments, discussion activities, and video reports. Tests will emphasize the knowledge and problem-solving skills acquired from completing these assignments.
- 10 % Laboratory Activities. ***You will receive lab safety training throughout the school year, and you will be expected to work safely while participating in lab activities.***
- 70 % Tests. There will be three to four tests per marking period. Remember to bring a calculator on test days. During in-class tests, you may also use one 3-inch x 5-inch conventional index card with handwritten notes on both sides. In an online learning environment, unit tests will be broken up into quizzes.

At the end of each marking period, there will be a test over the Physics High School standards covered. Each marking period test will be worth 10 % of the overall semester grade. Each marking period will be worth 40 % of the overall semester grade. Note cards cannot be used on marking period tests. No retakes are available for marking period tests.

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The following grading scale is used. A student must earn at least 60 % in order to pass the course.

> 93	A	80-82	B-	67-69	D+
90-92	A-	77-79	C+	63-66	D
87-89	B+	73-76	C	60-62	D-
83-86	B	70-72	C-	0-59	E

Test Retakes:

Any student who scores below 70 % on an in-class test may retake it within **one week** of receiving results for the original graded test. However, the student will only be able to receive 70 % or less on the retake. Test retakes must be completed before or after school at the announced times. No retakes will be available for the last test each marking period. No retakes will be available for tests or quizzes if we move to an online learning environment.

Extra Credit:

If we use an in-class learning environment for an entire marking period, there will be one extra credit lab or activity. No other opportunities for extra credit are available. No extra credit is available if we switch to an online learning environment for all or part of a marking period.

Assignment Policy:

Each assignment should be turned in on the day it is due. Late assignments will be penalized by approximately 15% of the overall score if they are turned in **before** graded assignments have been returned to the class. Late assignments will receive half credit if they are turned in **after** graded assignments have been returned to the class. Assignments that are more than one week late will no longer be accepted.

Make-up Work:

For every day they are absent, students will be given one day to complete make-up assignments. Students will have **one week** from an absence to complete a missed test or lab. Otherwise the score will be zero. Make arrangements with Mr. Wicks to complete missed tests or labs before or after school. After ten unexcused absences, a student's work will no longer be scored.

Special Needs:

Mr. Wicks requests that students with special needs privately inform him of their needs during the first week of school. This will ensure that appropriate accommodations are made in collaboration with a special education teacher.

Special Note:

Due to COVID-19, we must be prepared to switch between in-person and online learning as needed to reduce health risks for students and staff this school year. This syllabus was written with in-person instruction in mind, and it will be adapted as needed if we must switch to an online learning environment during part of the school year.

Classroom Expectations:

- (1) Students will follow school rules regarding masks, sanitizing, and social distancing.
- (2) Students will come to class prepared to learn. Bring the textbook, paper, a pencil, and a scientific calculator to class every day. Hall passes will not be issued to students who forget to bring their textbook. The textbook will also be available online.

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- (3) Students will take notes and actively participate in both classroom and online activities.
- (4) Students will respect the teacher, classmates, and visiting staff members. For example, when I am speaking, you should be listening rather than talking to friends, using your cell phone, or using ear buds. When others are speaking, you should be respectful toward them while they express thoughts or feelings related to the class. Actions or comments unkind to other students will not be tolerated.
- (5) Students will respect school property and the property of others. For example, please do not sit on any desks or lab tables. Please do not write on the desks. Take your textbook with you when class is over. In addition, do not use or take things that belong to other people.
- (6) Students will know the safety rules and work safely in the laboratory.
- (7) Students will use the drinking fountain and bathroom during homework time, ask the teacher's permission before leaving the room, take turns when leaving the room, and use Smart Pass.
- (8) Students will read and follow the rules described in the student handbook. A copy of the handbook can be found at www.saultschools.org/domain/481. For example, in the classrooms, students are not allowed to have backpacks, wear hats, wear hoods, eat food, or drink soda pop.
- (9) Students will be honest when taking tests and quizzes. Any student suspected of cheating or assisting another student in cheating will receive a zero and will not be allowed to retake the test. With the exception of a scientific calculator, no electronic devices (cell phones, smart watches, iPads, laptops, ear buds, or similar devices) may be used during in-class tests. In addition, you are not allowed to photocopy another student's note card to use during a test in my class.
- (10) Students will not use technology, including laptops, Chrome books, cell phones, smart watches, iPads, ear buds, and similar devices, without permission. In addition, you are not allowed to use my computer, laptop, or classroom telephone.
- (11) Students will keep noise levels within acceptable limits during labs.

Failure to “live up” to these expectations may result in verbal warnings, having to stay after class, phone calls home, conferences with a parent or guardian, grade reduction for specific assignments, detention before or after school with the teacher, or referral to the assistant principal depending upon the nature and severity of a student's offenses.

Classroom Procedures:

- Seating Chart:*** Each class has a seating chart. You are expected to sit in your assigned seat during the entire class period every day, unless otherwise instructed.
- Tardiness:*** You are tardy if you are not in your assigned seat when the bell rings. Tardiness will be handled as described in the student handbook. Excessive tardies will result in a referral to the Assistant Principal.
- Technology:*** During class, cell phones and related electronic devices will be used for instructional purposes only. Otherwise, during the first week of school, you will receive a verbal reprimand. During the second week, your electronic device will be taken and returned at the end of the period. After the second week, your device will be given to the office for your parents to pick up.
- Dismissal:*** The bell does not dismiss you at the end of class. I will dismiss you. You must be in your assigned seat until I dismiss you.
- In the Hall:*** If you are out in the hall before the bell rings, you will be required to stay at least one minute immediately after class.
- Course Assistance:*** Mondays and Thursdays after school are good times to see me if you need course assistance. Other times are available by appointment.

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Signatures:

I have read the Physics course syllabus, and I have had an opportunity to ask questions about how the course will be conducted. (A copy of the Physics course syllabus will be available online at www.saultschools.org/Page/6220 throughout the school year.) I understand that this is an algebra-based science course intended for college-bound 11th and 12th grade students. It will especially help students who are considering a science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or related career.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Name (Please Print): _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____