Honors Physics
POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND COURSE INFORMATION

This year, Honors Physics class is held periods 2 and 4 with Dr. Hood in room 38.
The textbook is Physics by *Giancoli* 6th Ed., pub. Pearson/Prentice Hall.

You need to bring your calculator with you to class EVERY day. If there is a *Surprise Quiz*, you will likely need this tool - and you can not share calculators during a test. If you don't have yours with you, then you've made the decision that you don't need it!

If you plan to be absent (field trip, doctor's appointment, etc...) YOU are still responsible for the scheduled course material!! That means as soon as you return and show me your *excused* absence form, I will accept your assignments/projects and schedule make-up exams for you. If your absence is deemed *unexcused* by our administration, your grade will be recorded as an "F". Only exceptions approved by MAST Academy administration will be considered.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
The purpose of this course is to provide the student with a basic understanding of the nature and concepts of physics. Special emphasis will be placed on the logical and deductive nature of the discipline. The student will receive an opportunity to do laboratory work in order to better understand the underlying physical principles and foundations of the scientific problem. The student will practice applying scientific investigation skills through the design and execution of experiments and by analyzing collected data to form conclusions. For more information regarding the course content, see the Syllabus on **Schoology**, which **you are expected to check daily for class updates. Ignorance is not an excuse for not knowing what is expected of you.**

PREREQUISITES:
A solid grasp of fundamental algebra and trigonometry and the ability to translate word problems into quantitative representations* is necessary in order to achieve even modicum success in this course. Additionally, willingness to practice numerous problems and exercises in and outside the classroom (i.e., homework), along with a cooperative attitude, is essential! Each student must have, bring to class (every day), and know how to use a scientific calculator. The TI-83/84 plus is highly recommended.
Physics is a challenging course, requiring an above-average workload. If you are taking Honors Physics rather than Physics 1 with the thought that this will improve your GPA, think again! The pace and passing criteria for the Honors Physics course will be significantly more rigorous than what is required in the Physics 1 course. If you think that you would have better success in the Physics1 course (offered this year during period 3), I will help you change from Honors to Physics 1, ASAP! *Students in Physics 1 should be concurrently enrolled in or have successfully completed Algebra II with at least a B. Students in Honors Physics should be concurrently enrolled in or have successfully completed PreCalculus, and have received at least a B in Honors Chemistry.

The language of physics is mathematics!

GRADING POLICY:
(a) There will be a minimum of two grades awarded each week. At least one will be from a quiz or test. A quiz may be scheduled or a *surprise*. A test will be scheduled with at least a day of advance notice.
(b) Quizzes will be worth 1 grade; tests will be worth two-three grades; the number of grades for special projects (eg., labs & projects) will vary. Two grades per term will be for homework and these marks will be based on an average of all collected assignments during that grading period.
(c) Grades for assessments will be determined by averaging all accumulated grades earned during the grading period. The Miami-Dade County Public School Board mandated scale will be used to determine grades:
90-100% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; 0-59% = F.

The best way you can prepare for future tests and quizzes in Dr. Hood's physics classes is to make sure you can do all the relevant chapter *Problems* and UT homework Problems. Exam questions will be very similar in form and content, often identical!! It will likely benefit you to use each end-of-chapter *Summary* and *Questions*, as well as *Examples* throughout the text, and prepare your own summary equations and definitions notes. The exams, however, will focus on problem solving - but you will need to be comfortable with terminology as well. See the Homework and Exam schedule on our class Quest, Schoology website and/or Gradebook. While I don't collect/grade the end-of-chapter problems, I expect you to do them. If you (or your parent) aren't satisfied with your grade in the course, you need to *at least* have all your work and notes in an organized notebook to show me before we discuss your shortcomings.

DECORUM:
* Students are expected to be in class, on time, everyday. The tardiness policy is:
- 1st tardy: warning and notation in grade book
- 2nd tardy: notation in grade book, conduct grade lowered one level, detention, and parent/guardian contact.
- 3rd and subsequent tardies: referral to Assistant Principal and/or Saturday work detail and conduct grade lowered another level each incident.

After the late bell rings, students will only be admitted to class with an official admit, excused or unexcused - a pass from a teacher, or a logged admit from the attendance office (excused or unexcused).
* Each student will begin each term with a conduct grade of "A".
* Students are expected to follow the CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT, published by the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Infractions of the code will be handled as indicated in this publication. The same holds for the MAST Academy policies.
* Academic Integrity is expected – **The penalty for plagiarism or cheating is an automatic DOUBLE ZERO for the assignment (which means the assignment has twice the grade weight it would normally carry in the teacher's Gradebook), notification to parents, and full implementation of the disciplinary routine specified in the most recent M-DCPS Code of Student Conduct.** The first infraction carries a minimum penalty of Parent Notification and Referral to Administration.