

Physics 1

POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND COURSE INFORMATION

This year, Physics 1 classes are held period 3 with Dr. Hood in room 38. The textbook for this course is Physics – Principles and Problems by *Glenco* published by McGraw-Hill. I have some books in my classroom and you have it available on Schoology and in your student portal.

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

If you plan to be absent (field trip, doctor's appointment, etc...) YOU are still responsible for this material, according to the class schedule!! That means as soon as you return and show me your *excused* absence form, I will accept your Homework and schedule a make-up exam. If you miss an exam and your absence is deemed *unexcused* by our administration, your grade will be recorded as an "F". Only exceptions approved by the 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. **You are expected to check Schoology and the Gradebook daily for class updates. Ignorance is not an acceptable excuse for not knowing what is expected of you.**

PREREQUISITES:

A solid grasp of fundamental Algebra and Geometry along with 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. A TI-83/84 plus is highly recommended.

Physics is a challenging course, requiring an above-average workload. Students in Physics 1 must have passed Chemistry with at least a C and should be concurrently enrolled in or have successfully completed Algebra II with at least a C.

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 – YOU are responsible for knowing the schedule:

*****Schoology and Gradebook*****

(b) Quizzes will be worth 1 grade; tests will (generally) be worth two-three grades; the number of grades for special projects (eg., labs) 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) Final grades 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 final grades:

- 90-100% = A = 4 points • 80-89% = B = 3 points
- 70-79% = C = 2 points • 60-69% = D = 1 points • 0-59% = F = 0 points

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 end-of-chapter *Assess* section 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 chapter *Concept Summary* and *Key Terms* from the end-of-chapter *Review* section 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 Homework and TEST schedule on Quest, Schoology 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:

(a) Students are expected to be in class and seated, 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).

(b) 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.

(c) Each student will begin each term with a conduct grade of "A".

* 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.