

Physics Orientation

Mr. Gavin/Golden Valley High School

This course orientation has been prepared to communicate the expectations, course content, course requirements, policies, and other information that will give you the opportunity to achieve and have a positive learning experience. Please read it carefully, learn it and share it with your parents. If you do not understand, or have a question about any part of this communication please see me for clarification.

1. Course Introduction

Physics is a one-year college prep course that studies the basic nature of basic things such as motion, forces, energy, matter, heat, sound, light and the insides of atoms. The course prerequisites, assignments and expectations reflect the college prep nature of the course.

2. Course Outline

I will closely follow the standards for the course as outlined by the state of California for Physics. These standards can be found on the internet at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/scphysics.asp> . There is a link on my website: www.weathernut.com. Based on these standards, we will study the following topics in this course:

Motion and Forces
Waves
Experimentation

Conservation of Energy and Momentum
Electric and Magnetic Phenomena

Heat and Thermodynamics
Investigation and

3. Textbook and Other Materials

I require students to come to class prepared to learn by bringing the following supplies: pencils, pens, notebook/folder, their textbook, a scientific calculator and regular sized lined paper. On testing days, no programable calculator may be used, no calculator may be shared and any other electronic device out will be cause for disciplinary action on the basis of cheating.

4. Grading Policy

The students will learn and be graded by accomplishing many different types of activities. Activities include labs, computer reports, class discussion & participation, individual & group projects, class & homework assignments & of course the dreaded tests. I use a total point system for student grades. Some assignments will be given a greater weight then others. Grades can be checked at anytime by checking my website: www.weathernut.com

**The grading scale for
the class grade is as
follows:**

A 90-100%

B 80-89%

C 70-79%

D 60-69%

F Below 59%

Tests are given at the end of each chapter and are worth 70% of the students grade. Tests missed due to an excused absence can be retaken with no penalty. Test grades of an F or D can be made up for a grade of up to 70% only. In some situations, as determined by the teacher, grades or work required may be modified to fit the needs of individual students.

5. Classroom Management Policy

In order to create the best learning atmosphere possible, the following rules shall be followed in my classroom:

- Working on the lessons of the day during class takes precedence over **all** other activities.
- A safe learning environment shall be kept.

If a student chooses not to follow the rules, the following steps may be taken, but not necessarily in the order listed:

- Verbal reminder
- Home communication
- Detention
- Step
- Referral
- Suspension
- Parent Conference

6. Assignment Policy

Assignments are given on a daily basis. Students are expected to finish assignments at home that they cannot finish in class. Most students should expect up to 2 hours of work outside of class weekly to keep up. Late work due to excused absence is due the day following your return. For some assignments it is just not possible to make up, for example labs. Other late work will not be accepted. **Getting and turning in all assignments is the students responsibility.** Assignments for the week can always be checked on my website: www.weathernut.com.

7. Academic Honesty

Cheating by students in my class is a major concern of mine. This robs the students of the reason for education, learning. This can take many forms: copying someone's homework, copying test answer, providing answers to someone, plagiarism, etc. An automatic zero on the assignment, report to school district and a parent contact will result.

8. Attendance Policy

Your attendance is important and is directly related to your success in this course. I can always give you copies of assignments. I can never give you back the hour of instruction and help you lose by your absence. As a side note, each day of absence, no matter the reason, means that the school loses about \$40 per student. The school tardy policy is strictly enforced.

9. Teacher Conference Period

I am available before and or after school for help. Please mention that you will be coming to ensure that I will be in my room to help you. Additional information such as **grades, email information and lesson plans** can be found at my class web site: <http://www.weathernut.com>. My email address is tgavin@hartdistrict.org. My phone number is 661-298-8140 ext 302.

10. Science Safety

The safety of students in my class is the most important concern. I will devote one class period at the beginning of the semester to discuss and teach safe laboratory safety practices to be used. Students must pass a laboratory safety test (80% or higher) and sign a safety contract in order to be allowed to participate in labs. Failure to do so will result in zeros on the missed labs. *Students choosing to participate in unsafe laboratory practices will receive a two day class suspension, a zero on the lab and the student will be required to retake the safety test.*

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We have read and understand Mr. Gavin's science class policies.

(Parent Signature)

(Student Signature, please write legibly for credit)

Parent E-Mail Address