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# AP PHYSICS 1 Classroom Policies

Mr. Will Benner

Spring 2017

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| **COURSE MATERIALS:**  ¨      Composition book (grid)  ¨      Loose Leaf Notebook Paper  ¨      3 Ring Binder  ¨      Black/Blue Pens  ¨      #2 Pencils for Tests  ¨      $5.00 Science Fee  ¨    Graphing Calculator (helpful for completing homework, smartphones & computers may also have this function) | **Mr. Benner’s Wish List:**   * Tissues * Expo Dry Erase Markers * Expo Dry Erase Erasers * Clorox Wipes |

All students are expected to bring these items to class daily.  Being prepared will greatly increase one’s ability to be successful in this class.

**GRADING COMPONENTS:**

Throughout the semester, students will receive frequent and diverse opportunities to demonstrate competency in this subject area.  All assessments and assignments will be weighed naturally using the point system depending on the magnitude of the assignment or assessment.

All points you may acquire will come from the following sources:

* Homework/Classwork 10%
* Quizzes & Lab Reports 30%
* Tests 60%

*Grade Meanings:*

Most students who aspire to take AP classes have made mostly A’s as their grades in the past. In this class, I try to make my grading reflective of the level of performance necessary to receive a level 3 on the AP exam. Consider the information below.

Student and Parent Perceptions of Grades (intended to be humorous):

A = Acceptable, Average, Anticipated

B = Bad, Below average, Bleak

C = Caustic, Corrosive, Crying

D = Deplorable, Dastardly, Dead

F = there are no words to describe…

Teacher Intent of grades:

A = AP level 5 for subject = Excellent (top ~10% of test takers) = You could teach the course

B = AP level 4 for subject = Above Average (next ~20% of test takers) = You could tutor the course

C = AP level 3 for subject = Average (middle ~30% of test takers) = You have the same understanding as the average college student that takes the class.

D = AP level 2 for subject = Below Average (next ~20% of test takers) = Your understanding is minimal.

F = AP level 1 for subject = Failing (lowest ~20% of test takers) = You just didn’t get it.

You will have to work hard for an A in an AP class. Do not procrastinate. Ask questions as you have them; do not wait until the day of the test because you need more “soak” time to understand concepts in this class.

Keep in mind that the AP test requires you to demonstrate your knowledge of the entire course in one sitting. This is much more difficult than demonstrating your knowledge of one unit on a classroom test. Historically, students with A’s and B’s on most of the unit tests were most likely to score a 3 or better on the AP exam.

***Lab Activities:***

Lab activities will be done throughout the semester.  Participating in lab is a privilege.  If you act in a dangerous manner or fail to follow instructions, lab privileges for you will be suspended.  An alternate activity involving research will be assigned.  If you miss a lab, you will have an option to either make the lab up or write a 1 page research paper on the missed lab topic. Lab safety will be covered on the first day of class and violations will result in a numerical grade of zero for that lab assignment and report.

***Classroom Assignments and Homework:***

Assignments will be given during class to enhance comprehension and understanding of the daily lessons. Homework will be assigned on a regular basis and each student will be expected to prepare for the next day’s assignments. Students should complete all assignments. If a student does not complete his or her classwork or homework on time, the highest grade that work may receive is 69%.

***Quizzes:***

Quizzes will be given frequently and will usually be announced.  Quizzes will be short and will cover previously covered material.  If you keep an organized notebook, take adequate notes, complete class assignments and homework, and arrive to class promptly, you will succeed and quizzes will benefit your grades.

***Tests:***

Students generally will be tested once every two weeks.  Tests will be announced several days in advance.  If a student is absent the day before a previously announced test, they will still be expected to take the test.  Test questions will be a combination of multiple choice, problem solving, fill in the blank, matching, labeling of diagrams, short answer, and essay.  The questions will cover information from class notes, reading assignments in text, worksheets, vocabulary, and classroom activities.  All students will need to use #2 pencils when taking the tests.

***Since this is an AP level course, students will not be allowed retake tests and quizzes.***

**GRADING POLICY**

All assignments, projects, and lab reports should be completed by the assigned due date.  These assignments are a purposeful extension of what is learned in the classroom and each student will benefit greatly in doing their work.  A student with any unexcused absences must make up all work missed but will only receive 69% of the actual grade (WHS Student Handbook).

I will make myself available for tutoring most days before or after school. Students should ask me one day in advance in order to confirm that I will be available for tutoring.

Finally, to receive AP credit in the spring semester, students must take and score at least a level 3 on the AP exam.Students will not be required to pay for this AP exam.

**CLASSROOM RULES& PROCEDURES**

***General Idea:***

1. Be respectful of yourself, others, and your surroundings at all times.

***Consequences:***

1. Student/Teacher Conference
2. Parent/Guardian Contact
3. After-School Detention
4. Discipline Referral

***Rules:***

1.      Please be in your seats before the tardy bell rings; otherwise you will be counted tardy.  Upon the 5th tardy, after school detention will be assigned and parents will be contacted. Should a student arrive to class more than 5 minutes late without checking in with the teacher first or without carrying a pass will be referred to the office for skipping (WHS Student Handbook).

2.      Begin quietly working on your bell work as soon as you enter class.  These will be collected for a grade.

3.      You are expected to bring your materials to class everyday (book, pencil/pen, paper, notebook).

4.      All pencils should be sharpened prior to the start bell for each class.  **Do not get up and distract the class if I am teaching.**

5.      You are expected to be alert in class; therefore, I expect your head to be up at all times.

6.      Respect is the key to success in my classroom.  Put-downs, foul language, and inappropriate comments/conversations will result in a write-up.  The term “shut-up” is not permitted.

7.      **It is critical that you are active in this class—each student is expected to work.**

8.      Class will run bell to bell everyday—do not pack up early!

9.      Hairbrushes, mirrors, make-up, lotions, etc. must not be seen in class.  They will be taken if out during class.

10.  All notes will be confiscated.  Do not write notes in class, read notes in class, or pass notes in class.

11.  Bathroom visits will be allowed during all times except when the teacher is teaching. (Don’t ask me to use the restroom while I’m teaching unless it’s a real emergency.)

12.  Students will be denied credit for this class should they exceed 5 absences.  In addition, parental contact will be made at 3 absences.

13.  If you are absent for any reason, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed for the day.  You can go to the weekly assignment crate to gather notes, handouts, and see what homework was assigned.  If you miss a test or lab, you may arrange a time to make up the test or lab before or after school.  All missed assignments, tests, and labs must be made up *within 5 days* starting from the day you return from an absence.

14.  Expect homework assignments every night and do not complain when and if you receive it.

15.  You will receive interim/progress reports that will list your current grade and percentages.  These reports must be signed by a parent or guardian.

16.  **Any form of cheating will automatically result in a ZERO without the opportunity for extra credit, retakes, or make-up work.** This includes but is not limited to copying answers, writing down answers or information when it is not permitted, plagiarizing, looking at others’ work, lending your work to be copied, etc.  If you cheat, you will receive a 0 on that particular assignment and will have your parent/guardian notified.

17.  No whining.  You are in a high school science class and will be learning a lot of information that will get you on the path for success for not only science but also life beyond high school.

18.  All substitute teachers should be treated with respect.  I will ask for detailed reports of behavior, and there will be penalties for any problems.  All rules remain the same regardless of who is teaching.

19.  Students are to follow all expectations listed in the Wheatmore High School Handbook.

20. Cell phones will be confiscated and given to an administrator if they are being used for any purpose other than a clearly defined assignment. This is for your own good even if you don’t believe it now.

21. Only bottled drinks (no other food or drinks) will be allowed during class time.  Students should refrain from bringing all other food or drink into the classroom.

**COURSE OUTLINE (Tentative)**

**Unit 1:  Kinematics (4 days)**

**Unit 2:  Dynamics (5 days)**

**Unit 3:  Circular Motion (4 days)**

**Unit 4:  Energy (5 days)**

**Unit 5:  Momentum (4 days)**

**Unit 6:  Simple Harmonic Motion (10 days)**

**Unit 7:  Rotational Motion (10 days)**

**Unit 8: Mechanical Waves (7 days)**

**Unit 9: Electrostatics (5 days)**

**Unit 10: Direct Current Circuits (7 days)**

**Unit 11: Review for AP Exam (5 days)**

**Exam: Tuesday, May 2, 2017 @ 12:00pm**

**Final Project**