Welcome

Welcome to Physics!
Your choice to enroll in a physics course at Smyrna High School is a step toward setting and attaining goals for a better future. Your commitment to this course requires that you be responsible and take responsibility for many things including your learning. The most successful employees are those who take responsibility for their own progress.

Physics is crucial to understanding the world around us, the world inside us, and the world beyond us. It is the most basic and fundamental science.

If you have a passion for understanding how things work and enjoy scientific experiments and mathematics, then you should study physics!

I am looking forward to an educational, fun, and exciting new year in physics! Let the learning, the experiments, and the application of mathematics happen to their fullest potentials. The world of physics is intriguing, challenging, and amazing!!

Course Description

Physics is the study of matter, energy, and the interaction between them. The course exposes students to some of the major concepts in physics that they will encounter in a post-secondary physics course of study. Physics gives students the opportunity to develop skills and understanding of course concepts through lecture, discussions, experiments, and collaborative learning activities. It also allows students to develop strategies to enable and direct their own learning, which is the ultimate goal of education.
Course Goals

The major goal of this physics course is to develop a good conceptual understanding of physics. Other goals include:

⇒ Use this conceptual understanding in problem solving. Students should begin developing expert-like problem solving skills.
⇒ Develop quantitative preciseness. It is important that students have solid basic math skills.
⇒ Improve their communication, interpersonal, and questioning skills.
⇒ Successfully work independently and as part of a team.
⇒ See physics as a coherent framework of ideas that can be used to understand many different physical situations.
⇒ See themselves as part of a classroom community of learners
⇒ Enjoy learning physics!!

Course Content

Physics is all around you...its in the sights you see, the sounds you hear, the things you feel, and even in your sense of taste. Physics topics explored this year will include mechanics, properties of matter, electricity and magnetism.

The course is designed to allow students to develop problem-solving skills both independently and collaboratively.

In addition to content, the course will focus on several 21st Century Workplace skills to include:

♦ Creativity & Innovation
♦ Problem Solving
♦ Initiative & Self-Direction
♦ Leadership & Responsibility
♦ Teamwork

Grading

During the school year, students and parents will be able to check their grades through Eschool. The method by which grades will be calculated is:

65% Assessments
35% Assignments

The Assessment category includes any type of formal or informal assessment that checks for understanding. Assessments can include but are not limited to: quizzes, tests, major projects, experiments, check for understandings, or tickets out the door.

The Assignment category contains but is not limited to: classwork, homework, minor projects, experiments, daily check-ins, daily project progress monitoring.

Please reference the new SHS Grading Scale on page 6.
Attendance & Tardy Policy

Arriving late to work is the number one complaint of employers today; second is poor attendance. At Smyrna High School, we emphasize the importance of being in class and ready to work each and every day. Excessive tardies will not be tolerated. If an issue occurs, the following school-wide attendance policy will be utilized:

- Up to 15 minutes late = Tardy
- 16 to 45 minutes late = Tardy & referral if documentation for tardy is not provided
- 46 minutes or more = Absent & referral if documentation for tardy is not provided
- 3 Tardies = 1 Absence
- Beginning with the 6th tardy to class, a referral and one day of in-school suspension assigned.

In the event of an absence, make-up work is expected to be submitted in a timely manner. The policy indicates that for each day absent, the student has that many days to submit the work. For example, 1 day absent means the student has 1 day to turn in absent assignments.

Quality of Work Expectations

In order for you to earn an A in this course, you must do the following:
- Meet deadlines
- Attend class regularly
- Actively Listen & Participate
- Never, never, ever give up!

- Score an average of 90% or higher on all assignments & assessments

There is an in-basket for completed work. Please make sure all work that you are turning in gets placed in that basket. All work should be neat, legible, and portray your absolute best!

Make-up Work:

If absent, it is the students responsibility to pick up their work from the “Absent? Look Here!” station. When completed, all make-up work should be clearly labeled as make-up work and placed in the in-basket.

Professional Attitude

As a Smyrna High School student, you will be learning job skills and traits to contribute to your future employment success. Each student is expected to conduct him or herself in a professional manner consistent with a working environment. This classroom will be considered your “job” for the time in which you are here. Therefore, students will be expected to behave as employees, respecting all rules and other students. Students will be expected to work well with other students and teachers, accept assignments and duties cheerfully and without complaint, assist the instructor and other students when appropriate, adapt to change, effectively manage their time, avoid gossip, and internet surfing or social network checking.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela
Computer Ethics

Acceptable and appropriate use of the Internet is a valuable job skill you will be required to demonstrate for employment success. Use this opportunity at Smyrna High School to help you master the art of acceptable computer use for the workplace.

Playing non-approved games, downloading files or music, participating in on-line gaming or social networking, and streaming videos are not permitted in class as they are against our “Acceptable Use” policy. Our classroom is equipped with computers, laptops, printer, scanner, and misc. equipment. You are responsible for exercising proper care of each piece of equipment. If you do not understand how to use something, please ASK. You are here to learn and part of the learning process is becoming familiar with the correct use of equipment. Problems of any nature should be reported immediately.

In Case of Substitutes

When it is necessary for a substitute to cover class for me, he/she is considered a guest in our room. You are expected to treat him/her with the utmost respect. You should be courteous, polite, and help him/her find things.

The substitute will be taking notes of bad and good incidents to be turned in to me and possibly the administration. You are to work the entire time on the assignment that was provided by me. You may NOT engage in inappropriate activities such as sleeping, playing games, surfing the Internet, excessive talking, disrespectful behavior. You should remain in your assigned seat at all times.

Absolutely no cell phones are to be out when a substitute is in.

Cell Phones

Cell phones for personal use are NOT allowed during class hours. Texting is a violation of professionalism. In emergency situations, please see me for approval of acceptable options.

In addition, charging of cell phones is NOT permitted under any circumstances.

Cell phones must be silenced and out of sight during all testing situations. No Exceptions!
Classroom Expectations

In my classroom I expect you to live by these 3 rules also. You are to respect yourself and others at all times. How you act or react to situations will determine how people perceive you. Taking responsibility for your actions is a part of being a good employee. Live up to your responsibilities and make no excuses.

Always be the absolute best person you can be!!

Course Materials

Successful people are always prepared! Let’s be prepared for every class, every day, every week, every marking period - ALL YEAR LONG! In order to have a productive and successful class, the following materials are necessary to have everyday:

⇒ Textbook (provided)
⇒ 3-Ring Binder or folder
⇒ Pencils & Pens
⇒ Extra Erasers
⇒ Calculator

Curriculum

Textbook:

Paul Hewitt’s best-selling book continues to be the benchmark book that two-thirds of professors use and by which all others are judged. In Conceptual Physics, Eleventh Edition, Paul Hewitt shows how a compelling book and the most advanced media can be integrated to empower professors as they bring physics to life for non-science majors, both in and out of class. For the Eleventh Edition, Hewitt helps readers connect physics to their everyday experiences and the world around them, and provides additional help on solving mathematical problems.
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http://shs.smyrna.k12.de.us/

Making Connections & Building Dreams!

Feel free to contact me at any time at:

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302-653-8581 ext. 3291

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Conceptual Physics

Course Syllabus

2017-2018

Your signatures below indicate that you have read, understand, and will comply with the contents of this syllabus.

Please detach this page and keep the syllabus safely stored in your binder for future reference.

Student Name: ____________________________________  Student Signature: _____________________________________

Parent Name: _____________________________________  Parent Signature: ______________________________________

Please indicate any questions and/or comments below: