

# CLASS GUIDELINES for Inquiry Physics

Mr. Meador

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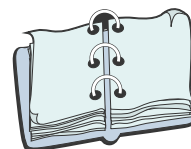
## Class Topics and Prerequisite

motion, vectors, gravitation, friction, work and energy, electricity, magnetism

**YOU MUST HAVE MASTERED BASIC ALGEBRA TO SUCCEED IN THIS COURSE**

## Class Materials

- **three-ring binder notebook** dedicated solely to Physics which will be graded each quarter; it must have the following four sections with all papers in each section in chronological order:
  - notes (everything I write on the chalkboard, you write in your notes)
  - labs
  - assignments
  - tests and quizzes
- **scientific calculator** with sine, cosine, and tangent functions (if you can't afford one, see me now; you **MUST** bring one to class every day)



## What must I bring to class?

- **pencil** – work not done in pencil will have points deducted
- **calculator**
- **physics binder**
- **textbook** (when directed) – *Holt Physics* by Serway & Faughn  
visit <http://bhsphysics.org> for link to student companion website



## Laboratory

We will be doing a great deal of lab work. You will be assigned to a lab group. Cooperation and participation are critical to a lab group's success. Each member of the group will turn in his or her own work. **Your answers to lab questions should never duplicate those of other group members.** Remember that you alone are ultimately responsible for your grade in lab. Safety procedures will be strictly enforced. Some of the equipment we will be using is quite valuable, and must be treated accordingly. Irresponsible behavior will result in a zero on a lab.

## Getting Credit for the Work You Do

You will learn and follow strict procedures on showing your work when doing problems. Answers to verbal questions must be expressed in complete, legible, and intelligible sentences. My grading of your work will be thorough and demanding. My goals in grading are to help you improve your work, to give partial credit when appropriate, and to be fair and consistent. Be forewarned that **cheating of any form (which includes any copying of another's work) is not tolerated.** So if you work together on a homework assignment, be sure you are doing your own set-up and calculations on your own paper. This will prevent the creation of unacceptable duplicate work that would appear to have been copied and would thus be considered cheating.

Notebook Grades: 1<sup>st</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 4<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

## Late Work

Assignments that are turned in after they are due (even if only a minute late or left in a locker, etc.) will suffer an immediate grade reduction. The grade is reduced 10% or more off the top for each day an assignment is late. Your parent/guardian will be notified if you start turning in late work. **Do not expect me to remind you of missing assignments.**



## Attendance and Make-Up Work

When you are absent or late you inconvenience yourself, other students, and me. Do not expect me to remind you of missed assignments. Missed labs or tests may require you to come in before or after school. Saying you can't come in before or after school in a timely manner is equivalent to requesting a zero. Respect my time by keeping your appointments, or I will impose late penalties or assign a zero at my discretion.

**TARDIES:** Detention will be assigned beginning with the third or fourth tardy; you will be sent to see an administrator on tardies six and beyond, tardies which will be counted as absences.

**ACTIVITY AND OTHER PLANNED ABSENCES:** Full credit will only be awarded if you asked for your assignments well in advance and turned them in on time (normally the day you return). **Limit your absences!**

**ABSENCES DUE TO ILLNESS, ETC.:** You must request all make-up work on the day you return. For each day you were absent, you will have two days to complete and turn in the work, up to a maximum of ten days.

**MAKE-UP TESTS:** If you are absent on a test day **for any reason**, you will take a more difficult make-up test. Tests are announced several days in advance. If you miss class the day before a test and return on test day, you will take the test that day unless you missed material on the test or a review.

**UNEXCUSED ABSENCES:** Penalties will be applied for any work submitted late due to unexcused absences.

## Grading

Grades will be given on tests, quizzes, lab work, most homework, and your physics notebook. Your quarterly grade will be calculated by dividing the total points you've earned by the total points possible and multiplying by 100 to obtain a percentage. 80% of the semester grade comes from the total points accumulated over the full semester; the remaining 20% comes from the comprehensive semester exam.

A	90-100	Standard rounding applies.
B	80-89	For example, a score of 89.5% is recorded as an A,
C	70-79	but 89.49% is recorded as a B.
D	60-69	Do not expect "extra credit".
F	below 60	No grades will be "dropped".



## Classroom Rules

- Be seated and ready to work when the tone sounds.
- Bring all required class materials.
- Remain with your lab group and do not touch equipment that isn't assigned to your group.
- Materials in or on my desk or the demonstration desk are private. ASK before you touch.
- Only ask to go to the restroom for emergencies, and do not obtain soda pop or snacks while you are away. You risk refusal at an inopportune time.
- You may bring food and drinks to the classroom if and only if it does not disrupt class and all trash is placed in the trash cans, not your desk.
- Cell phones are not to be seen nor heard; otherwise they will be confiscated.
- Behave responsibly and be respectful at all times.

## Website Resources

Please visit <http://bhsphysics.org> for a calendar of what we're doing in class each week and online copies of class handouts you can print out when you are absent, lose or forget a paper, etc.

Need help? Come in before or after school or call me at home before 10 pm.