

## I. WELCOME TO PHYSICS

Welcome to high school physics! In this course you will learn about forces, energy, and matter – the stuff that makes up and controls our universe. Remember that ultimately we are a part of the universe, so by studying the universe, we study ourselves! This class should challenge you and intrigue you while at the same time prepare you for life in an increasingly technological society.

## II. CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

I will never expect anything from you, which you cannot equally expect from me. You should never ask me permission to do something, instead ask yourself: is this something Mr. Kepple is allowed to do? If it is then you should feel free to do it yourself. If it is something I am not allowed to do then it would be unfair if you were allowed to do it. For example, I am not allowed to listen to music while I am teaching so you should not listen to music while you are learning. In this classroom I will treat you as my equal and I expect you to do the same to me in return.

## III. GRADING ISSUES

**a. Academic Grade.** Your grade in this class and every assignment will be determined by the percentage of points you have earned out of the total possible points.

Grade	Percent
A	≥ 90%
B	80% - 89%
C	70% - 79%
D	60% - 69%
F	50% - 59%
< F	< 50%

Assignment	Points
Phyzrs	2
Handout	4
Homework	6
Quiz	20
Test	60
Final Exam	130

Category	Percent
Tests	40%
Quizzes	15%
Homework	10%
Classwork	20%
Final Exam	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**b. Less than F.** The first 50% of the points on any assignment is a responsibility grade. My policy is that as long as you turn in an assignment, you cannot receive below a 50% for that assignment. Please realize that 50% is still an F, but it is infinitely better than a ZERO. As an example, if you turn your homework blank, you will receive 5 points out of a possible 10. If you want to receive the rest of the points, up to 10, then you have to actually complete the assignment.

**c. Cheating.** Cheating on any assignment or test is a serious violation and will result in a total loss of academic credit for that assignment. It is cheating to talk or otherwise communicate during a test. It is also cheating when you copy from another student or have an electronic device out during a test. If you try to cheat during a test, you will be caught. Every year, I catch at least 10 students trying to cheat on the first test of the year. Always make sure your work is a reflection of your own knowledge!

**d. Extra Credit.** I do not believe in giving extra credit. I think extra credit makes the grading scale meaningless and encourages students to be irresponsible. However, I do believe in giving extra help. If you are having trouble with this class, I am very willing to help you. Do not be afraid to ask for help.

## IV. CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

**a. Instruction.** Every day when you walk into the class, check to see if there are any handouts, they will be placed next to the entrance. After you pick up the handout and take a seat, check the agenda. If a PHYZR is the first item on the agenda get out a piece of paper and be ready to take notes.

**b. Quizzes.** Quizzes are worth 20 points and are completed with a partner. Half of your quiz score will come from your partner's grade. If your partner does not understand something, it is your responsibility to teach it to him or her. In this class, I view quizzes as a learning experience. For this reason, if you learn from your mistakes on the quiz and earn a higher grade on the test, then I will replace your quiz score with your test score.

**c. Unit Tests.** On the day of a unit test, you are to turn in all your homework and all your classwork for that unit. Your classwork should be ready to turn in at the beginning of class in the correct page order. The first 10 minutes of class on the day of a test will be used to review and collect the homework. Each test is worth 60 points and you will have 60 minutes to complete it.

## V. OTHER INFORMATION

**a. Materials.** Every student will need a 3-ring binder, several pencils, and an eraser for use in this class. You will find that you will have to erase a lot in this class; using a pen will not cut it. Your physics binder will be used to store your physics textbook which you will receive in the form of handouts and class notes. Your binder will be collected the day of the test and checked for completeness. If you do not have a binder, you can still turn in a stapled packet with all your work.

**b. Calculators.** I have a strict no calculator policy in this class! If you are caught using a non-authorized calculator in this class, it is considered to be cheating on the assignment. The moment you stop using a calculator will be the moment you start to learn math. I spend hours making sure the numbers on every assignment come out nice and easy. For example, you will never be asked to calculate the value of  $7.18 \times 5.96$ , instead you would be asked to calculate the value of  $7 \times 5$ . If you do not know how to multiply and divide without a calculator then you must learn or you will fail this class.

**c. Make-up Work.** If you are absent, you are expected to complete the work you missed as well as turn in any assignments that were collected on the day of your absence. It is a good idea to have a "study buddy" who can pick up handouts and take notes for you while you are absent.

### Mr. Kepple, what must I do if I am absent for a...

- **Lesson?** Stop by my classroom the day you return to school to pick up any handouts that you missed. PHYZR's can be found on my YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/user/mrkepple](http://www.youtube.com/user/mrkepple)
- **Quiz?** You will not be allowed to make-up the quiz, instead your test will count for 80 points instead of the usual 60 points. Keep in mind that you are still responsible for the lesson completed after the quiz, so remember to pick up the handout for the lesson you missed!
- **Unit Test?** You must meet with Mr. Kepple to take a make-up test within three school days of the original test date. If you fail to do so, you will receive a grade of ZERO. However, after you take the Final Exam, the percentage of questions you answer correctly, which pertain to the material on the missing test, will take the place of your missing test score.
- **Final Exam?** This is the worst possible day to miss! You have until the last day of the semester to arrange with Mr. Kepple to retake the exam. If you go on vacation without taking the Final Exam, you can expect your grade to drop by over 10%. Please realize, it is always better to show up and fail the final exam than to skip it!