

August 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

Welcome to Physics I (level Pre AP or AP) course. In this course students will emphasize problem-solving and analytical thought in order to:

- gain knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of our physical world;
- quantitatively and qualitatively predict and describe the physical world;
- develop an analytical thought process necessary for solving problems in the classroom, in the laboratory and in life;
- discover how science is applied to every day life.

While the vast majority of students will not enter careers that require an understanding of physics, the truest benefit of the course is in building problem solving skills and logical thought. That being said, many students find physics to be an extremely challenging course – even some of those who are accustomed to high achievement may find it to be their first real academic challenge. Previous academic success does not necessarily indicate the student will have academic success in Physics. Students will no longer be able to rely simply on memorization techniques, but instead must problem solve. Instructional time and class participation provide a foundation and are critical to success; however individual diligence in regards to concept studies & practice problems (self-study & homework) will be of the utmost importance if students wish to master the course objectives. AP students need to enroll with caution, as this is basically a college level physics course.

Over the years, **I have found the best indicator of success in physics is the students' math aptitude.** Experience has shown that students enrolled in pre-calculus have the best of both worlds and are in a strong position for success. Students enrolled in algebra II can be successful in physics, but it will require a great deal of their time and energy. A student currently enrolled in geometry or math models may be better served in taking Principles of Physics (POP).

The second best indicator of student success is the student's commitment to their self-study & homework. Students who rarely, partially or sporadically complete their assigned practice problems invariably struggle to pass the course. Simply put, if the first time students try to solve physics problems in on a quiz or a test, they will more than likely not be successful. **Student must be willing to keep up with their homework. Those who are not willing to put forth the necessary study efforts should reconsider enrollment.** Parents are encouraged to pay particular attention to the student's homework grades through the HISD Home Access System, and struggling students are encouraged to take care of tutorial opportunities. Furthermore (for level students), reassessment privileges are tied to homework completion (see reverse of page). AP students will NOT be given reassessment opportunities. These recommendations should be especially considered for students heavily involved in extracurricular activities or after school work.

That being said, **please stay attuned to your child's physics grade in the HISD HAC system.**

Information and instructions having to do with this course can be found on the back of the page. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or comments.

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(281) 641-7643

Sincerely,
David Pink
AHS Physics

“Philosophy is written in this grand book the universe, which stands continually open to our gaze. But the book cannot be understood unless one first learns to comprehend the language and to read the alphabet in which it is composed. It is written in the language of mathematics, and its characters are triangles, circles, and other geometric figures, without which it is humanly impossible to understand a single work of it; without these, one wanders about in a dark labyrinth.”

Galileo

Conduct guidelines –

- Respect each individual in the classroom.
- Eagles Policies are enforced.
- No food or drinks allowed in class.
- No game playing on the student computers.
- No hall passes during the first or last 10 minutes of instructions.
- No phones, I-pods, tablets or other electronic devices are to be used in class unless directed by teacher.
- Bring all necessary materials to class so you are well prepared.

Physics I Information

Physics I	Summative 60%	Formative 40%
Pre AG	Summative 70%	Formative 30%
AP	Summative 75%	Formative 25%

Materials:

- paper, pencil or pen (spirals may be used for class notes)
- scientific calculator**, protractor, ruled straight-edge
- Textbook: Level - McGraw-Hill online book – <http://connected.mcgraw-hill.com/connected/login.do>
- AP - Giancoli, Douglas C. Physics: Principles with Applications. 7th Edition

Tutoring Times:

- Wednesdays 2:55 – 3:25
- Thursdays 8:45 – 9:15
- Students are also encouraged to attend tutorials with other physics teachers if needed.

Make-up work, late work & reassessment:

Please see the student handbook for guidelines. Students are responsible for knowing the guidelines and making sure their assignments are completed within these guidelines. An assignment is considered due when called for in class, generally speaking, extra time will not be given. Level Students must complete all coursework in order to have the opportunity to reassess, and reassessments must be done within one week of original assessment. **AP students will NOT have reassessment opportunities.**

Please sign and return: (circle one) Physics I AP Physics

Parent signature: _____ Email _____

Day phone _____ or _____

Student signature: _____

David Pink
AHS Physics

