



Hoboken Charter School

4th & Garden Streets – 4th Floor, Hoboken, NJ 07030 • phone: 201-963-3280 • fax: 201-963-0695

WELCOME TO MR. ALPERT'S PHYSICS CLASS **Course Overview, Expectations and Responsibilities**

Physics is the study of motion at all levels, from nuclear particles to race cars, rockets and roller coasters. The topics to be covered in this course are listed in more detail on the attached syllabus with an anticipated time frame through January of this year. Additional topics may be covered depending upon individual classes and the ability of the students to process the information.

Expectations

As part of the AVID program, students are expected to maintain an interactive science notebook with daily notes and activities. This notebook will be separate from the AVID 3" ring binder. Homework assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class the day after they are assigned with the exception of long term projects and labs. Work missed because of absence must be made up immediately upon the student's return to class. It is the student's responsibility to seek help with regard to work missed.

Interactive Science Notebooks will be checked on a weekly basis based upon a standard rubric including, notes, indexing, labs and preparedness (having the periodic table stapled into the notebook).

Hoboken Charter School has issued a set of non-negotiable rules. Each student and parent/guardian has been made aware of them. They are to be strictly enforced. Students shall arrive on time and shall be prepared to take notes, share their learning and participate actively in class discussions. Respect for classmates, teachers and administrative personnel is an absolute necessity.

Repercussions for inappropriate behavior shall be as follows: students will be warned on the first offense. Any other offense can result in after-school detention, a phone call to parent/guardian or office/dean referral.

Textbook

Conceptual Physics, Eighth Edition, Hewitt, Paul G., 1998, Addison Wesley, Reading, MA

Laboratories

Wednesday has been set aside for block periods of 110 minutes this year. That means that most labs will take place on that day.

Equipment is to be shared between lab partners. Each student is responsible for the equipment. Students are responsible to pay for the loss and breakage of materials and equipment.

All data will be accumulated together; however, each student is required to submit their own comprehensive lab report. The lab report format is the same for all science classes at HCS.

Each group is responsible for cleanup of their lab station at the end of the lab period. It is important to clean all glassware and tabletops. All items must be returned to their original place, in order that they can be used again.

Self-discipline is expected in the laboratory and is the responsibility of the individual student. It is a safety matter, which is very important! All students must have a signed safety contract in their folder in order to participate in weekly labs.

Absenteeism

Absentees are required to confer with the teacher the first day back. (NOT DURING CLASS TIME!)

Students will have one week to make up a missed lab. Tests are still given the day of the return.

Students are responsible for getting the notes missed during absence and putting them in the correct place in their interactive science notebook.

If a student knows that he/she will be absent for an extensive period of time, arrangements must be made through the main office to pick up assignments.

Grading System

Grades will be based on overall performance in class. Earning an A will require more than just doing well on the tests and quizzes. The grade measures performance on multiple assessments. In Physics, the grade will be determined by the following criteria:

Tests, quizzes, lab reports- Various types of tests and quizzes will be given - 60%

Interactive Science Notebooks- Notebooks will be graded every week. 10%

Projects- Students will work to research and present various topics. - 10%

Homework- Homework is completed on time and effort is displayed. You will write on a note on goldenrod paper for all missed assignments. 10%

Classwork, Participation and Preparation Students will be graded upon their level of participation in class, including, timeliness, preparedness and on-task behavior. Students are considered prepared if they have their homework and all supplies required (assignment pad, pencils, paper, and science notebook). 10%

In order to do well students will have to display good work habits as outlined below:

Works cooperatively- student demonstrates a respect for the ideas of others and shares tasks with others in the group.

Use of time- student stays on task and completely finishes projects.

Communicates ideas- student records data accurately and communicates results clearly and accurately in a self-controlled manner.

Troubleshoots Problems- student demonstrates techniques for solving problems and often doesn't require teacher guidance.

Understands skills/concepts and vocabulary use- student demonstrates an understanding of skills and concepts. Vocabulary is used correctly and in proper context.

The grading outline is written not to overwhelm, but to impress upon the student that in order to become successful, certain skills are required. Success is not random; it takes hard work and dedication.

Academic Honesty

Cheating and plagiarism have become prevalent in all levels of the American educational system. A section found in the non-negotiable rules may clear up any confusion about what is considered honest and what is considered cheating/ plagiarism.

If a student is having difficulty, please come and see Mr. Alpert right away- don't wait.

Please sign, date and return this portion of the syllabus to Mr. Alpert. It is an indication that you have read, discussed and understood the information and know what is expected of you.



Physics course description and letter of understanding

Date _____

Student _____

Parent/Guardian _____