

Guidelines for the Physics Classroom

Teacher Information for Mr. Geni

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Help is available periods 4, 7 and after school. It is best to make an appointment to see me.

Course Information

Physics is the study of how the world works. We will be learning about the nature of motion, forces, energy, gravity, astronomy, relativity, sound and light (acoustics and optics), electricity and magnetism. The course is a combination of hands-on exploration and using math and the English language to describe what we observe.

Journal: Every student will need a spiral notebook which is dedicated to this class alone. The journal should be brought to class every day. All homework, class notes and lab notes will be completed in your journal.

Contracts: Each unit that we study will be organized into contracts which describe what you should know and be able to do at the end of that unit, list all required and optional work, and lay out a schedule for that work.

Portfolios: Every student will be given a folder to be used to collect all your work. This portfolio will always remain in the classroom. It will be used at the end of each quarter to help determine your grade.

Textbooks: We will be using Paul Hewitt's Conceptual Physics. You will only need to bring the book to class on the days that homework is due, or on days where we will be reviewing at the end of the unit. More challenging work will be available using a second, optional book by Giancoli.

Learning Summaries: At the end of every unit of study, you may choose to write a summary of the key ideas you have learned in your own words as an alternative to taking the test on the concepts learned. There is usually a separate test for the math skills.

Class Contributions: Every student will be expected to contribute something to the good of the group. These jobs will be chosen by each student, and can be changed, if desired, at the end of each quarter.

Attendance, Tardiness, etc: In general, we will adhere to the rules in the Pilot. If you are having problems getting to class on time, we will talk about it and find a solution. Using other people's words is as inappropriate in Physics as it is in any other class. I want to know what *you* know.

Grades: While there will be clear expectations and standards about what is required for success in this class, it is my intention for you to spend as little time as possible thinking about grades so that we can spend as much time and energy as possible exploring the ideas of physics. In general, grading will be based on *journal work; evidence of learning*, which includes tests, quizzes and learning summaries; and *personal outcomes*, such as how self-directed you are in your learning and how much you contribute to the class. As much as possible, you will evaluate your own work. At the end of each quarter we will review that work together and negotiate a grade based on the contents of your portfolio.