CLASS PROCEDURES, RULES, DISCIPLINE AND HELPFUL HINTS

MAY 9, 2016 – AP Physics C Exam – 12 Noon & 2 P.M.

McChesney. -- Advanced Placement Physics

Welcome to AP Physics! >3.35!!!

"Genius is a talented person who does his homework." (Thomas Edison)

EQUIPMENT that you will need:

1 ruler, preferably transparent	1 protractor, transparent and small
1 scientific calculator	**1 problem notebook**
1 three-ring binder for lab papers	Additional materials for projects as needed

NOTE: Problem notebooks will be kept in room 211 except when you need to take them out to complete an assignment. These will be checked early and often! These notebooks are an important component of your grade.

1) **Advanced Placement Physics is a <u>College Level Course!</u>**
So what does that mean?
   - It means that you will need to figure out a lot on your own. ★
   - It means that you will need to develop a support network of fellow students in this class.
   - It means that I **will not** go over most of the practice problems in class. I will **always be available 614-264-9816 or kevin_mcchesney@plsd.us or tigerphysics@hotmail.com http://www.tigerphysics.org** or follow on **twitter http://twitter.com/tigerphysics** to help with the most challenging problems.
   - It means that you should focus on understanding rather than memorizing. It is **impossible** to memorize all of the information that we shall cover in this course, **but**, if you understand something, you can apply it to a new situation.
   - It means that we shall start from the beginning of Physics, so you should already be familiar with some parts of this course.
   - It means that we will try to cover the **entire book (1270+ pages) in 30 weeks!** This schedule will enable us to spend about a month to practice for the **AP Test.** This means that we will cover over **700 pages in the 1st semester!**

"To invent is to understand." (Piaget)

2) **GRADING --** The grading in this class is based on tests, labs, projects, quizzes over the reading, and homework checks. The largest part of your grade will be based on **tests.** The grade scale is the same as that used for all courses and is indicated in your student handbook.
The grades will typically be calculated as:
   - Test/Quizzes = 50% of the grade
   - Labs and Projects = 20% of the grade
   - Participation, Behavior,Attitude, Attendance, etc. = 10% of the grade
   - Homework → See Explanation Below 20% of the grade

Homework consists of problems assigned for your problem notebook, solved on the right hand side, corrections on the left side and these will be checked on the **due date**. The problem notebooks **WILL** be collected at various test times during each grading period. These notebooks will be checked for work and effort. By test time, you will be expected to have **corrected your work.** Give all assigned problems a try, even if you do not think that you "**get it**" at first. Leave lots of space for corrections, and make sure to correct problems that you miss and highlight the corrections in a **<u>DIFFERENT</u>** color of highlighter. *E.g. Use a yellow highlighter for your original answers and maybe a green highlighter for your corrections.*

Your grade **will be lowered** for *<u>NOT</u>* doing homework! **HOWEVER,** like most college courses, you may need a **curve (*TEST CORRECTIONS*)** to do well in this class. You **WILL NOT GET TEST CORRECTIONS WITHOUT DOING YOUR HOMEWORK!** SOOOOOO, how do you **earn** a TC???????

1) Homework will be checked on the due dates.
2) Problem notebooks collected at testing time will be expected to have **ALL** answers clearly corrected on the left hand side of the notebook. If **ALL** of the answers are not clearly corrected, you will not receive a curve **(TEST CORRECTIONS)** on that test.

Assignments and Make-Up Work -- GET THEM DONE WHEN THEY ARE DUE! I shall collect assignments at the **beginning of the period** on the due date. I do not accept late work without a penalty (even later in the same period). If you forget or lose an assignment, make sure that you understand the material so you can have a chance to do well when it is covered on a test. If you are absent on the date an assignment is given, you will be given the same number of days to make it up as you were absent; again as per the **Student Handbook.** However, if you are absent on the date an assignment is DUE, it will be due the first day you return to school. Befitting an AP course, it is your responsibility to hand in assignments and get assignments (including notes from other students) when you are absent. I **WILL NOT** TRACK YOU DOWN, BUT I WILL TRY TO HAVE ANY HANDOUTS THAT WERE GIVEN DURING YOUR ABSENCE PLACED IN THE CLASS MAILBOX.

In this class, you will have as little "busy work" as absolutely possible, in part because we have more than enough essential work. You will have reading assignments that have to be done **before** we begin to discuss topics. This gives the information sufficient "soaking-in" time, so that when we discuss it, you will at least be able to recognize key words from the subject. Labs will be done in class with partners, but lab reports and questions are to be individually completed. This is not to say that you cannot discuss the questions with our lab mates, but answers should be in your own words. Often I will ask you to turn in your labs with all people in a lab group having their labs clipped together; this will quickly allow me to see if you have done your own work.

Physics is truly a team effort, and if you need extra help, talk with your ever-friendly teacher, use a 5 Steps to a 5 in AP Physics guide for practice, get an AP practice booklet, do extra problems in your book, or study with classmates. (In a few days, I shall pass around a list for us to make a "phone tree" of you fellow AP Physics students.)

LAB -- This course will have a required lab period that will meet every day in a week for 1/2 of the lab period. You will go to Commons for Friday, unless you need extra help then you can come to AP Physics Lab Period.

TESTS -- Due to the rapidity with which we go through material, you will be tested every two or three chapters. Occasionally, we will have a quiz over a specific topic or lab skill. Also, pre-quizzes may be given over reading assignments. These are designed to see if you read -- NOT if you understood--the assignment.

Since the AP exam has both multiple choice and free response sections, it is important that you become good at answering both types of questions. Therefore, tests will be of two types, and in general I shall try to alternate between the two. One type of test will be multiple-choice and generally will cover material over a specific chapter or chapters that have recently been covered; usually these tests will cover about two or three chapters of material and they are similar in nature to the multiple choice tests you took in Honors Physics. The second type of test will **always** be cumulative in nature, although recent material may be more heavily stressed. This kind of test will be all problems and short answers/essays.

EVOLUTION OF TESTS -- As we get into the course, I will be taking questions (both multiple choice and free response) from old AP Physics Exams so that you get used to the AP exam format. We will also take time in April and May for more extensive practice on taking the AP Exam. We will discuss test taking strategies and have you evaluate each other on free response tests through out the course.

MAKE-UPS FOR TESTS AND QUIZZES -- You will need to make up any quizzes within the allotted time for make-up work. You will receive a **different quiz** than everyone else. Since tests are cumulative and have a lot of topics, information on tests usually does not include information discussed in the few days preceding a test.