

What I expect from you:

1) DISCIPLINE AND GENERAL INFORMATION --

- A) Review the student handbook and follow all rules and policies in the handbook. These rules really help the year to go smoothly and they apply to **ALL** of us. If rules seem unclear, please ask for clarification.
- B) To me, classroom behavior that I expect from you may be summed up in one very simple concise rule:

"Do what is right!"

- C) Expect to show respect and also to receive respect, both from me and from your classmates.
- D) Lastly, **ALWAYS ACT IN A SAFE MANNER!**
- E) AP Physics is a course for mature students. A responsible student would **NEVER CHEAT!** Please be a responsible student.

2) WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF A STUDENT ACTS IRRESPONSIBLY?

I **DO NOT** expect to have discipline problems in this class. However, some students may choose to act immaturely. The general steps that I shall follow in dealing with discipline problems will be:

- 1) A verbal warning. I shall let you know that I feel that your behavior is out of line. I will **never** try to humiliate or embarrass you in front of others.
- 2) If a situation continues, a detention **and** a phone call home will result. Detentions that are not served will be doubled, and then sent to the main office for further action.
- 3) A conference with parents. I do not anticipate that any situation will become so severe that this step becomes necessary! However, I shall involve parents in resolving such issues.
- 4) As a last resort, persistent discipline problems will be sent to the office for more severe disciplinary action.

What you can expect from me:

- 1) **The same disciplinary rules apply to me!** This means that as long as you act in a manner that deserves respect, I will always give it to you.
- 2) **I shall always try my best!** I shall try to make sure that the class is interesting and relevant. Some topics are very challenging and all of us will need to work hard to gain the necessary understanding. Remember, the goal of this class is to **score exceptionally well on the AP Exam!**
- 3) **I am here to help YOU!** I will give you time during my conference period, lunch period, before school, and/or after school. If you are having trouble, please try to let me know that I need to do some extra teaching. Students who consistently keep up on their work and meet deadlines will be the most successful students in this class. Also, I highly recommend that you have a group of "study buddies" that regularly work together. Group study is probably the best method for most students to learn physics. I try to be in my classroom every school day by 6:45 AM. I rarely leave school before 4:00 PM in the afternoon (Usually, I leave later than 4 PM!).
- 4) **This course will be a challenge.** I believe that Physics is one of the very few high school courses that truly prepares a student to continue their education at the college level. You will learn to think! I firmly believe that AP Physics should be presented in such a way that it parallels college course work. This means that you may sometimes feel very frustrated. I often quote Mark Twain who once said that "**problem solving is what you do when you don't know what to do**". I think that Physics forces you to become a better problem solver.

Finally, here are some thoughts about this course:

- 1) Test questions, both essay and problem based, will ask you to **apply** what you learn in class.
- 2) Projects and labs are not "cookbook" type. Questions will be posed so that you must think about the answers during labs. Be sure that you understand the purpose for performing a lab. Lab exercises reinforce textbook theory. Use of the computer-based LabPro data collection devices will provide you with accurate data that agree with the predictions from the formula. You will also learn some basic computer coding.

- 3) When responding to the essay or free response questions, always answer in neatly written, complete sentence form. Learning to summarize and analyze data may be the most valuable lesson that you will learn in AP Physics!
- 4) I rarely lecture! I often say that my lectures are just as boring as anybody else's! At this level, you need to be able to take down information as you see fit. I will always help you to learn! I feel that the successful college student is the individual who takes a textbook and studies it until he/she understands the material. Your textbook is well written and the authors have made an obvious attempt to explain physics in a manner that you can understand it. Read your text for understanding. Always carefully review the sample problems included in the material.
- 5) Students who earn the best grades always have good attendance.