Physics Class Expectations & Syllabus 2008-2009

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Physics is the study of matter and energy and how they interact. Students should acquire laboratory, problem solving and critical thinking skills along with a better understanding for the natural environment through the content of this course. We will also explore the relationships of physics to your interests, career opportunities, and the historical contributions of science. Topics that we will study include force and motion, work, heat, sound, light, electricity, magnetism, modern physics and applications in everyday activities.

Grading: Grades will be based on the following point system:

Tests	100	points
Quizzes	20 – 75	points
Labs/Projects	20 – 100	points
Homework	10 – 20	points
Participation	10	Points
Projects	10-200	Points
Summary	10-50	Points
Extra Credit	1-20	Points

All of these grades will be added up at the end of each marking period and divided by the total number of possible points. This will be your grade out of a possible 100%. This is then converted to a letter grade as shown below.

A+	≥ 97	C+	≥ 77	F	≥ 0
A	≥ 93	C	≥ 73		
A-	≥ 90	C-	≥ 70		
B+	≥ 87	D+	≥ 67		
B	≥ 83	D	≥ 63		
B-	≥ 80	D-	≥ 60		

Your grade will be posted online approximately every two weeks by student ID number. Note that grades are not rounded. If you do not earn at least a 90% you will not receive an A-…

It is expected that all homework is complete and ready to be turned in at the beginning of class; **once the bell rings** points will be deducted from the overall score for incomplete and/or missing work. This means your work needs to be stapled, have your name on it, and be done, etc. by the time class starts.

Group work will be a normal part of our class due to the nature of the subject. I will expect students to help each other, collaborate, do labs together, and group projects; however, unless otherwise explicitly stated, all work to be turned in MUST BE YOUR OWN. If any student is found to have the exact same work (or a close replica) as another student you will both get the exact same grade --ZERO! This means

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that plagiarism will not be tolerated under any circumstance. Students will also be referred to the administration as outlined in your student handbook. *So be carful on who you let look at your work!*

Make-up Work: Work is due the day you return. It is **YOUR** responsibility to find out what you missed. Assignments from previous classes will be available. If you need additional time, and your absence was excused, let me know in advance and I will be happy to accommodate any reasonable request. Any assignment given or handed in during an unexcused absence gets zero credit. Any assignment not completed in a timely fashion will not receive full credit.

Student Conduct: a) Follow Vista H.S. policies.
b) Adhere to lab safety rules.
c) Be ready to learn.
c) The laws of gravity must always be obeyed.

Laboratories: Lab activities are a major component of this course. This is your chance and privilege to see physics come to life. Data collection, graphical analysis and other tasks may be done –and sometimes required to be done-- on computer. Labs must be taken seriously at all times and safety shall never be compromised. **Your safety contract must be completed BEFORE you begin your first lab**. Students, and therefore parents/guardians, are responsible for repairing or replacing any damaged equipment caused by the misuse, abuse, or other occurrence that leads to damaged equipment.

Homework: Homework will be checked for completion and effort. This means you will need to show all of the steps involved in the problem solving process. Essentially, going through the problem solving process carries more value that getting the correct answer. Remember, copying work will result in a ZERO. P.S. Your first extra-credit assignment due with your returned signed contract: A list of 3-5 good physics jokes. (Worth up to 5 points).

Class Web Page: http://oneillvhs.googlepages.com/home --Memorize this, save this, bookmark this, do what you must to keep this handy! This will be a very useful resource throughout the year. It contains class outlines, notes, homework assignments, grades, review page links and much more.

Need extra time or help? I am usually available every day during the Extended Learning Period (ELP). I am also on campus by 7:00 AM and stay until about 3:00 PM. If this does not work for you, please schedule another time with me. We CAN work something out! Either way, arranging in advance increases your chances of finding me.

What you need: Pen, pencil, **scientific calculator**, protractor, graph paper, lab book, a positive attitude, a PC formatted 3.5" floppy disk or memory stick, an open mind, and good jokes –because mine aren't...

What will you get out of this class? A strong foundation in the basics of physics, problem solving skills, a review of math… Ten years from now you most likely won't remember much of the class content; however, the skills you learn about how to attack a new problem will stay with you. You will also be set up to make connections not only with other sciences, but with other subjects. You may not believe it now, but you will find that this class will help you, no matter what you do in life. Physics is everywhere!!!

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I have read and understand the policies and guidelines of the Physics Syllabus.

Student's Name _____

Student's Signature _____

Student's e-mail _____

Parent/Guardian's Name _____

Parent / Guardian Signature _____

Home Phone Number _____

Parent / Guardian Work Phone Number _____

Parent / Guardian e-mail _____

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