

## AP Physics B Course Policy

Teacher: Mr. Van Ness

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### Introduction:

The objective of the course is to provide a firm background in the fundamentals of Physics. Lecture assignments and labs provide the main thrust of the course. Labs and projects are formulated to provide experience with research materials, scientific equipment and critical thinking.

Course Text: **Physics**, Giancoli

Course Length: One Year

**Course required student supplies:** Students will need to have the following supplies in a packet in their backpack at all times: **pencil, eraser, paper, lecture journal, Graphing Calculator. I recommend the TI 83 or better.**

**All major papers and projects should be typed.** Students will require at home access to Word, Excel, and Power Point. Students should keep all graded work and all worksheets until after the final exams.

**Course Outline:** The physics curriculum emphasizes classical and modern physics principles. We will begin the course with a review of mathematical applications. The physics curriculum includes Mechanics, States of Matter, Waves & Light, Electricity & Magnetism and Modern Physics. These physics concepts will be further enhanced by having students perform careful scientific investigations.

### Attendance:

- **Parents** are strongly encouraged to plan family vacations, doctor's appointments, and other social activities (Educational code considers these "**unexcused**" absences) for times when it will not adversely affect a student's educational progress. **It is impossible to replicate the science lab and classroom experience with paper and pencil activities.**
- **Cuts** (State Educational code considers these "truancy") **will not** be eligible for make up credit on any assignment or class activity, **nor will credit be given** to assignments/tests/quizzes due the day of a "cut". Three illegal absences (cuts) will cause you to be dropped from this course. See student handbook for details.
- **Tardies are a disruption and I will not repeat instructions. Two tardies earns a morning detention.** Three tardies equals a cut and three cuts means a drop from the class. School policy states that three tardies equals one cut, and three cuts leads to being dropped from the class.
- **Leaving the room** for any reason during the class is ill advised. Therefore, each student will only be allotted 4 excused departures per semester. Upon the 5<sup>th</sup>, they will receive a detention for poor planning.
- **Absences due to illness** or other excused absences are allowed **3 days** to make up missed assignments, otherwise the work is considered to be late. Please see me if you need to make personal arrangements due to special circumstances. It is the responsibility of the student to check the website calendar for missed assignments, pick up any handouts, seek clarification if confused, and to make up missed laboratory work, tests and quizzes at brunch, after school, or by arrangement, or no credit will be given.
- **Absences due to school activities:** all missed work due to a school activity or sports must be turned in the following day.
- **If a student is absent from class the day a major assignment or lab is due**, but attends any other classes that day, the assignment must be handed in to either the teacher or the teacher's mailbox by 3:15 pm
- **Missed tests and quizzes** are to be made up within one week after school, on Tuesdays or Thursdays, or by special appointment. It is the student's responsibility to make sure missed exams are made up in the specified time frame.
- **Missed labs** must be made up within one week after school, or by special appointment; see teacher for details. It is the student's responsibility to make up a missed lab.

### Assignments:

- All assignments are posted on the class website and/or announced in class.
- **All class work and homework assignments must include the following:** A labeled list of given values, the equations you plan to use, work with a final derived equation, and a boxed answer. Any part of an assignment not containing these components is wrong and therefore worth no points.
- Labs and Quizzes will be given weekly.
- Quizzes and Test may not be taken unless all assignments are completed on time.
- Any displays of “Senioritis” or sub standard behavior will result in a zero for conduct.

### Labs:

- **Participation in lab is a required portion of this course.**
- Participation is part of the lab grade. Since there will usually be only two to four partners, each individual's work is crucial to their learning.
- Safety is a priority in the lab. Each student will take a safety exam and sign a safety contract prior to being allowed into the lab.
- Lab notes, diagrams, and data are to be written in the lab journal. All diagrams and data are to be in **pencil**. Begin a new page for each lab. (You may write on the backside of the pages). Lab title and date must be written on the first line of the page. e.g. (Lab: "Laser Cats" 12/1/03).
- Breakage, damage, or loss of equipment and glassware will be charged to the student on a replacement cost basis.
- **Missed Labs** must be made up (this means students may **NOT** collect data from another person). It is the student's responsibility to arrange a time with the instructor to make up a lab. All labs must be performed...no dry lab data collection will be accepted.

### Grading:

Semester grades will be determined according to the following:

**60% Quizzes/Tests**

**25% Classwork/Labs/Presentations**

**15% Final**

- **Pass/Fail:** This option will be given only by the 11<sup>th</sup> week of the semester.
- **No Mark:** This option is only available for students who have been legally absent for more than 10 days in a row, along with a doctor's note. This option must be requested immediately after or during the extended absence.
- **Progress Reports:** Grades are posted on the web so that students and parents can check progress as frequently as desired.

Your grade will be determined from that score on the following scale:

	100 – 92% A	91 – 90 A-
89 – 88% B+	88 – 82% B	81 – 80 B-
79 – 78% C+	78 – 72% C	71 – 70 C-
69 – 68% D+	68 – 62% D	61 – 60 D-
	59% or lower F	

### Academic Responsibility/Cheating Policy:

Cheating, **which included plagiarism**, is defined as representing any work that is not your own original work as your work. This include using another student's work (either from this year or a previous year), looking at another student's test, work copied and pasted from the internet or other published material, etc. All work turned in must be in your own words. There are no joint assignments. You may consult with other students if the specific assignment calls for this, but your work must be original. **CHEATING WILL RESULT IN A ZERO FOR THE ENTIRE ASSIGNMENT. TWO INSTANCES MAY RESULT WITH A DROP FROM THE CLASS.**

### Electronic Device:

This class is an “electronic free” zone.

- **Cell phones** will not be used as calculators and will not be out during class. Any cell phone out during class will be confiscated and may be picked up at the end of the day from administration or attendance. Any cell phone out during a test will result in a zero.
- **Music devices** (ipods, cd players, mp3 players, etc.) are not allowed in class. All devices must be turned off and stowed before class begins (including headphones). Any device not put away will be confiscated. The first infraction will result in confiscation of the device which the student may pick up from the instructor after school. The second infraction will result in the device be held for a week. The third infraction will result in confiscation of the device for a week, to be picked up by a parent or guardian.

### Harassment Policy:

- “District policy states that harassment in or out of the classroom is not to be tolerated. Harassment based on race, ethnicity, able-bodiedness, sexuality, perceived sexuality, gender, gender expression, monetary standing, religion or faith-base, or any other factor will be reported to the administration and dealt with accordingly. This includes slang such as “that’s so gay” or “that’s retarded.” Both are considered hate speech. ”

Thank you for taking the time to read through this course policy. If you have any further questions feel free to email me at [dvanness@srvhs.org](mailto:dvanness@srvhs.org). Kindly take the policy quiz that was handed out in class, sign at the end acknowledging that you have read the course policy, and return the completed hand-out to me.

Thank you,  
San Ramon Valley High School Science Department & Mr. Van Ness