

Welcome to Physics



It's great to have you in class! I'm sure we'll have a great year together! Here's some information to help you feel at home in physics class.

Course Description & Objectives

Physics is the fundamental science of the natural world. This course involves study, extensive laboratory work, problem solving, and demonstrations in the area of measurements, kinematics, dynamics, vectors, work, energy, waves, and electricity. With respect to Conceptual Physics, students will cover a greater variety of topics more deeply and will experience a greater emphasis on the mathematical treatment of the physical relationships in the universe. A strong set of math skills is essential for success in this course.

Student Supplies

Students need to have and **bring to class every day...**

- ☆ a scientific calculator
- ☆ notes
- ☆ current work for the class
- ☆ a composition notebook

☆ **All four every day** ☆



Grading Policy

The course grade consists of a weighted calculation based on the following formula:

50% Tests & Quizzes
50% Labs, Homework & Classwork
100% The Grade You've Earned! ☺

The grading scale to convert percentages to letter grades created by the Board of Education will determine your letter grade. Your semester grade will also follow the Board-approved calculation. Extra credit opportunities, if any, will be rare, so make your work count!

Digital-Age Expectations & Resources

Much of this course operates using technology to distribute resources and provide communication. It is expected that each student will...

1. Subscribe to the blog on our class website, sgbscience.net.
2. Check the blog via email and/or on the class website every weekend.
3. Subscribe to the class Remind.com account and attend promptly to all class Remind announcements.
4. Create a TurnItIn.com account and add physics class to your account.

Note: All assignments and resources will be available via the class blog and on sgbscience.net. If you are absent for an extended time, work will only be given to the office if the class has deviated from the plans or resources already shared in the blog and on the website.

Tests & Quizzes

Procedures and policies for tests and quizzes are as follows:

1. Any disruptive behavior during tests will result in points being automatically deducted from your test grade. A first offense will result in a -5% (half-letter grade) consequence, a second offense will result in an additional -10% consequence. A third offense will result in

loss of credit on the test and disciplinary action. ☹

2. Any cheating on a test will result in an automatic zero on the test as well as in disciplinary action. Boo! ☹☹☹☹

3. If you have more than two tests on a given day when I have a test scheduled for you, you may postpone by one day taking my test if you provide written verification, signed and dated by your other teachers, indicating that you have a test in those teachers' classes on the day in question.



4. If you are unsure of the test material, please see me for help before the day of the test. You may not postpone taking a test.

Important Notes on Homework & Classwork

On homework/classwork problems that involve mathematical computations, you **MUST** show your work by showing givens, formulas, and how you plugged numbers into those formulas. If you do not do this, your work will not count for any points.

Any work done in class must be "mastered," meaning that it must be 100% complete and 100% correct. Any student not achieving this during regular class time must come in on her/his own time. Late work is accepted as per the policy stated below.

Important Note on Labs

Avon Lake City Schools provides you with a free Google account for educational purposes. You must activate this account and use Google docs to do any collaborative written work, such as lab reports written together in teams. You must share these documents with Mrs. Burgess at the email she gives you. She reserves the right to view the revision history of these documents to ensure that each partner contributed equally. If evidence of equal effort is not present, she reserves the right to require rewrites for late credit from individuals who do not appear to her to have worked equally hard as other team members.

Make-Up Work

If you are absent, please check the blog on our class website for assignments. Unless we have deviated significantly from what is posted, Mrs. Burgess will not send assignments to the office when you are absent because they are already available to you via the class website.

1. You will have as many days as you were consecutively absent to make up homework, tests, and quizzes missed during that absence. This will apply to any excused or unexcused with credit absence. Unexcused absences do not qualify for make up work, and you will receive a zero for any work associated with those absences. This is school policy.
2. If it is the end of a grading period, your grade will result in an incomplete until your work is completed or the number of days you have to make up the work has passed. Again, this applies to any non-unexcused absence.
3. In the event that you have more than ten consecutive non-excused absences at the end of a grading period, you will have a maximum of ten days to complete make-up work. Once again, this applies to any non-unexcused absence. This is also school policy.
4. Laboratory work:
 - ☆ **You may only make up laboratory work on Fridays at 3:00pm** except on shortened weeks, during which 3:00pm on the last day of the week will substitute for the Friday lab make up time. Extra-curricular involvement does not excuse you from this responsibility. Academics (curricular activities) come before extra-curricular activities.
 - ☆ If you miss a lab, you have to make up that lab during the next two lab make-up sessions or you will not receive credit. The exception to this limit is if you have more than ten days of consecutive non-unexcused absences, in which case you will have an extra week for every five consecutive excused absences beyond ten.
5. As all assignments are listed on the class website and blog, it is your responsibility to determine what you've missed while absent. You may also ask Mrs. Burgess on the day you return to be sure of what you've missed and what the due date is for makeup work.
6. If you have actually read this far, email Mrs. Burgess an XKCD comic by the due date of this syllabus. Michelle.Burgess@avonlakecityschools.org. (This is an experiment to see how many people read this document carefully, so don't tell anyone about this task! Oh...and make it a funny one! ☺)

Late Work

Work not turned in by the due date is late.

1. You may make up late homework assignments for half credit.
2. You may turn in late labs FOR WHICH YOU WERE PRESENT TO COLLECT DATA for half credit.
3. You may not turn in late labs for which you were not present to collect data unless you come in to collect data via appointment with Mrs. Burgess before the due date as per the lab make-up policy stated above.
4. If you make up a test or quiz that you missed due to an absence AFTER the due date, you will receive a 10% penalty on your test or quiz grade based on the number of days late you are. I do not mark tests and quizzes down 50% for being late.

Classroom Expectations & Responsibilities

Mrs. Burgess expects her students to...

1. Be honest & responsible.
2. Meet classroom, laboratory, and school responsibilities at all times.

Your responsibilities are...

- ☆ **Be in your assigned seat ready to work with your materials as soon as the period starts.**

Consequences: Tardy, loss of credit on assignments for which you have no materials

- ☆ **Follow the verbal and written instructions of the teacher.**

Consequences: Loss of credit on assignments, teacher or office detentions, parent calls, office referrals

- ☆ **Stay on the topic.**

Consequences: Loss of credit on assignments, teacher or office detentions, parent calls, office referrals

- ☆ **Be responsible for your own work and learning.**

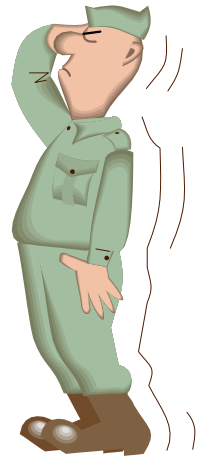
Consequences: Loss of credit on assignments, teacher or office detentions, parent calls, office referrals

- ☆ **Transition quickly.**

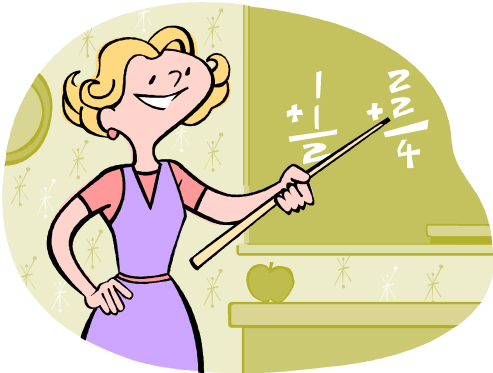
Consequences: Loss of credit on assignments, teacher or office detentions, parent calls, office referrals

- ☆ **Treat yourselves, others, and property with respect**

Consequences: Teacher or office detentions, parent calls, office referrals



Teacher Responsibilities



Mrs. Burgess will...

- ☆ Treat students fairly with respect and care.
- ☆ Be prepared with materials in order to provide students with a challenging, engaging environment.
- ☆ Provide students with an orderly classroom consistent with school standards.
- ☆ Strengthen my teaching abilities through continuing education.

Cheating

Working together is encouraged, but copying is not. Working together means discussing a problem or question. You may not copy another person's work in this class, study hall, lunch or another classroom. If you are caught doing this, your paper as well as the paper of the one you are copying off of will receive a zero. If Mrs. Burgess finds you working on an assignment from another class or copying work from another student for another class, the material will be taken and given to that teacher. Your physics lab data will be identical to your partners' data, but your answers to questions, conclusions, and conceptual writing must be your own.

- The first time an incidence of cheating regarding lab, homework or classwork occurs, you will receive a zero on the assignment. The second time you will be referred to the office for disciplinary action and receive a zero.

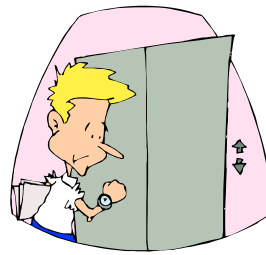
There are many different forms of cheating. Anything that provides a student an unfair advantage over other students is considered cheating.

- On the day of an assessment (tests or quizzes), assessments are secure material.
- Discussing (verbally, via texts, tweets, snap chats or any form of communication) the assessment with other students in any form is cheating.
- Cheating includes telling students in other class periods what type of questions are on the assessments, asking students who have already taken the assessment for any information, or attempting to rework a problem from the assessment outside of the classroom.
- This also includes keeping an extra copy of the test and/or taking a picture of the test.
- If you are caught cheating on a test, you will receive a zero and will be referred to the office for an honors code violation

Cell Phones

You should leave your cell phone in your locker and not bring it to physics class.

If you choose to bring it to physics class, you must put it in the cushioned case at the front of the classroom. By choosing to bring your phone to physics class, you assume full responsibility for any damages to or theft of your phone while it is in the case at the front of the classroom. You may not take your cell phone out of the case for any reason during class time without Mrs. Burgess' permission. If your phone is out, Mrs. Burgess will confiscate it until the end of the day for your first offense. For any offenses beyond the first offense, she will give your phone to the office along with a discipline referral. Your signature on the signature page of this document shows acknowledgement of and agreement to this policy.



Policy on Tardiness

As per school policy, a second or third tardy results in one office detention. The fourth tardy and beyond result in office referrals. If the student handbook states a different policy, Mrs. Burgess will follow that policy.

Hall Pass Policy



You may only use the hall pass for visits to the restroom, drinking fountain, office, or your locker. Policies and procedures are as follows:

1. You must sign out on the classroom sign-out sheet **before** leaving the classroom. Failure to fill out the form completely will result in loss of privileges. Filling out the form completely includes having Mrs. Burgess initial the form **before** you leave.
2. You must return to class within five minutes unless you're super ill and about to go home after your visit to the bathroom.
3. You must go straight to the bathroom, drinking fountain, and/or your locker and then come straight back.
4. Any abuse of this privilege will result in its revocation.

Academic Help

Please feel free to make arrangements for help from Mrs. Burgess.



Parent-Teacher Contact

Mrs. Burgess strongly believes that students do best when parents/guardians and teachers team together. Therefore Mrs. Burgess welcomes parents to contact her at any time with questions, comments, concerns, and/or suggestions via email (Michelle.Burgess@avonlakecityschools.org.) Email is the best, most efficient way to reach her, as opportunities to make private phone calls are less frequent than opportunities to send emails. However, sometimes a chat is best, and you may also reach her by calling the High School (440-933-6290 x 1262.)

Disclaimer: This classroom plan is not meant to be all encompassing. As the year progresses, there may be a need for additional assignments or modifications to expectations.



Avon Lake High School Science Department Philosophy

(Read when dealing with insomnia.)

We, the science staff of Avon Lake High School, believe that science education should:

- ☆ Develop a spirit of inquiry.
- ☆ Develop the ability to observe and think independently, analytically, creatively, and critically in problem solving.
- ☆ Cultivate the appreciation of science and its accomplishments.
- ☆ Develop the ability to read, understand, and interpret science vocabulary and concepts.
- ☆ Foster an understanding of science as an open-ended intellectual activity.
- ☆ Develop an understanding of science and technology with our economic and social life.
- ☆ Develop opportunities in the curriculum for a wide range of interests and abilities.
- ☆ Prepare students to be useful, productive, and responsible members of society.
- ☆ Prepare students for further study in science or potential careers in science.

Signature Sheet

We, the undersigned, have read, understand, and agree to Mrs. Burgess' classroom management plan as posted on <http://sgbscience.net/physics/>.

Student Printed Name

Date

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date