

Conceptual Physics
Course Syllabus & Policies
Mrs. McDevitt, Room C103
2018-2019

Conceptual Physics is a physics class that will study the concepts of physics with less emphasis on math than our other physics classes. I know what you are thinking right now, “Yee-ha, no math!” ☺ Actually, we use a lot of math in this class daily at the basic algebra level and it is the same type of math used day in and day out. The focus of my attention, though, will be on the concepts and principles, which brilliant scientists before me came up with to define and explain natural processes (how and why objects behave the way they do). You will also learn how to produce and analyze a valid science experiment leading to an evaluation of the results based on the information (data) collected. Conceptual physics will be a fun class for you, especially if you are interested in how natural processes work. I believe people learn best when they are active learners; therefore, we will be doing as many activities/laboratory experiments as possible.

Over the year, we will be covering the following material:

Semester One: MOTION	Semester Two: ENERGY
Mechanics	Mechanical Energy, Work & Power
Newton’s Laws	Electrostatics
Momentum & Impulse	Electrical Currents and Circuits
	Waves: Sound, Light, Color, Reflection, Refraction, and Optics

Course Goals:

- Students completing this class will leave with a foundational conceptual understanding of the classical physics topics listed above.
- Students will have developed basic level problem solving and critical thinking skills when analyzing physics problems.
- Students will be able to collect data, analyze the data and evaluate the results of a simple experiment.

Grades: will be based on total points with approximately 50% of the points from lab activities and class assignments, and 50% from exams, quizzes and projects. The following scale will be used for class grades:

A:	90 - 100 %
B:	80 - 89 %
C:	70 - 79 %
D:	60 - 69 %
F:	Below 60 %

Homework: There is very little homework in this class. Everything I want you to learn and practice can be completed during the class period. You are expected to complete all assigned work in class. In other words, I give you enough time in class to complete the work assigned, but if you procrastinate, talk, sleep, goof-off or in any way waste class time, then you will have to come in before school (during your time) to complete work. Remember, this depends on *you* not me. Textbooks stay in the classroom so bookwork make-up must be done in class before school. Do not try to make-up late work *during* a future class; you will not receive credit.

Tardies: Unexcused TARDIES will be unacceptable. On your third tardy you will receive a detention. For every tardy after your third tardy, you will receive a detention. In other words, DON’T BE LATE!!

Unexcused Absences: If your absence has been determined unexcused, then you will *not* be given the opportunity to make-up class activities done that day. If you miss class on a “test/quiz day,” then I will call home to make sure the absence was legitimate (*see your school planner for definitions of excused absences*). If your absence is unexcused on a “test/quiz day,” then you will receive zero credit for the test/quiz that you missed.

Excused Absences: Please see me before school (NOT during class time) to determine what you missed and the due date of any work missed while you were absent. If you know of an absence ahead of time, let me know so that I can give you the work before you are gone. Usually, you will be given one school day for every day that you missed to complete the work. Plan to make up any labs/activities missed BEFORE school. Any activities/labs missed need to be made up the day you return; otherwise, the equipment may be put away and you may miss your opportunity! Remember, it is **your responsibility** to find out what you missed (from me) right away—and always do this outside of class time. You may

also check out the weekly calendar which displays each day's class work via my website via the Conceptual Physics tab and choosing Conceptual Physics, Weekly Calendar: <http://www.wlhs.wlwy.k12.or.us/Page/3604>

Late Work: If you do not complete an assignment by the deadline, you must still complete the work and as soon as you have completed the work, then you must show me that you have finished the assignment. At that time, I will date the work completed in order to give you partial credit. The sooner you get an assignment completed, the more partial credit you will receive. In other words, each day that your work is late, your opportunity for credit diminishes.

Weekly Calendar: On my website, under Conceptual Physics, I will post the "Weekly Calendar" displaying each day's schedule of events by week. My website may be accessed through the school website, or by going directly to: <http://www.wlhs.wlwy.k12.or.us/Page/6888>

Office Hours: I will be available most mornings before school from 7:30-8:15am. This time will be used by students to discuss absences and deadlines for make-up work, complete any make-up work, and to get individual help from me. Please sign-up on the wall calendar to schedule appointments for making up work.

Supplies: Please bring to class everyday a scientific calculator, a writing utensil, a notebook with paper, and a folder or binder to hold handouts and assignments.

Cell Phones: In accordance with school policy, cell phones are forbidden to be turned on during class (*see your school planner*). Please keep your cell phones turned OFF (not in sleep/vibrate mode, but OFF) during class. If a cell phone is found turned on during class, it will be confiscated and given to an administrator. (Your parents will need to retrieve it from the administrator.)

iPods, Mp3 Players: Please keep your iPod/Mp3 turned OFF during class (or keep them at home). These devices are disruptive to the educational process.

On-Line Grades: Grades will be completed on-line; therefore, you may check your updated grades from any computer having an internet connection. Grades will be updated and posted at least twice a month. You must have your password in order to check your grades. (See a Media Specialist if you don't have a password, or if you have any questions about the procedure to get on-line in order to check your grades.)

Academic Center: is open after school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:00. This is a place where students can come to get help on work for a class, either because they are struggling a bit and need some help from a tutor (our NHS kids) or because they need some support simply to get some work done in a supervised location, or can get help with organizational skills and/or other supports to be more successful in their classes.

Class Expectations:

- We help each other learn.
- We respect each other's learning.
- We have our materials and are learning from the moment the bell rings until I dismiss the class.
- We handle lab equipment, textbooks, and technology with care.
- We accept and respect each other's differences.
- We help create a safe environment in which we all feel comfortable asking questions.
- If you are absent, you are responsible for obtaining handouts and notes and then also checking with me to make arrangements for extra help or to make-up quizzes, exams, labs or activities. This cannot be done during class time. This may be done before school, preferably.
- Assignments are no longer accepted after a unit is complete (the unit is complete on test day).

You have the opportunity to succeed in this class through hard work, determination, and realizing the following Goals:

- 1) You are responsible for your own learning, and**
- 2) Do your work thoughtfully, thoroughly, and timely.**