

**HONORS and CP PHYSICS**  
**CLASSROOM AND GRADING POLICIES**  
**Ms. Wittmann**

**Course Description:**

Lab Physics is a laboratory based physics course covering the topics of: kinematics, dynamics, energy, power, heat, light, electricity and magnetism. This physics course is designed to provide students with a knowledge base in physics for careers in the biological sciences, nursing, architecture and related areas of applied technology. This course will introduce students to higher order thinking as well as provide a foundation for chemistry and biology.

**Classroom Environment:**

In order to establish and maintain a **positive learning environment** for all students in the classroom it is important that you understand the classroom rules and your responsibilities as a student from the start of the class. The main principle underlying all classroom activity is that the mutual respect for the rights and property of all others be maintained, and that a classroom environment is created in which all students may learn.

**Classroom Rules:**

1. Demonstrate courteous and respectful behavior towards all others in the classroom.
2. Be on time. Take your seat upon entering the classroom, take out any homework assignment, and begin the assignment on the board.
3. Focus on your assigned work and participate constructively in class.
4. Raise your hand to answer a question.
5. Chewing gum is not allowed in class.
6. Do not bring to class or eat or drink in class any food, candy, or beverages.
7. Do not use or touch the computers and lab equipment unless told to do so by your teacher.
8. Backpacks must be stored.
9. Be safe in the lab. Read all safety directions and ask your teacher if you have any questions. Sign and return the **Laboratory Safety Regulations Contract**.

**Note: Failure to follow the classroom rules will result in disciplinary action.**

**Classroom Procedures and Student Responsibilities:**

- 1) **Students must attend class** as per Board of Education Policy. (You can find a copy on page 8-10 of the student handbook.) If you are absent from class you are responsible for obtaining the work covered that day. If you are out for a single day absence, you are expected to make up any missed test/quiz within two days of your return. If you are out for more than one day, then it is **your responsibility** to meet with your teacher **the day of your return** to work out a schedule of when you will complete any missed test, quizzes, and other assignments.
- 2) **Come to class prepared.** This includes bringing all the **necessary materials**.
  - a. Composition notebook
  - b. Tape
  - c. Calculator.
  - d. Metric ruler
  - e. Colored Pencils.
- 3) All books are to be covered for the entire year.
- 4) You are required to keep an **interactive notebook** solely for use in this class. You are to keep all your notes, lab data, homework, and other assignments in this notebook (organized by chapter). The notebook is to be periodically submitted to your teacher and it will be evaluated for organization and completeness.

### **Working Together versus Copying:**

In many situations, you will be working on assignments with a lab partner or in small groups. Working together means that you are sharing ideas, but not answers. Every student is expected to do his/her own work and answer all questions in his/her own words. If a situation occurs where students are turning in identical work (i.e. copying from each other), all involved students will receive a zero for that activity. Copying is also considered a form of cheating and therefore a Discipline Report will also be sent to the school disciplinarian for further disciplinary action (see page 21 of your student agenda book).

## **GRADING POLICY**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

We believe that each report card grade issued by a teacher must represent a student's level of proficiency and growth in the subject. The grade may also reflect a student's work habits and her/his ability to meet a deadline and to work independently. Performances on class work, daily homework and outside assignments are measures of these competencies.

### **II. GRADING SYMBOLS:**

See agenda book page 18-19.

### **III. DETERMINATION OF MARKING PERIOD GRADES:**

- A. **Marking period grades** will be determined using a total points system. To calculate your **marking period average** take the points you earn divided by the total points and multiply by 100%. Your marking period grade will be based on evaluation of homework, classroom participation, quizzes, laboratory reports, and tests.
1. **HOMEWORK** All assigned question and/or problems are to be formally written and brought to class the day it is due. Homework will be accepted the next day for half credit and will not be accepted after the second day.
  2. **NOTEBOOK:** A notebook grade will be incorporated into each nine week marking period grade.
  3. **LABORATORY REPORTS/ CLASS ACTIVITIES:** All data, calculations, and graphs are to be completed by the class meeting following the performance of the laboratory. Class work will be collected and graded throughout the marking period.
  4. **QUIZZES & TESTS:** Quizzes may NOT be announced in advance, therefore, students should keep up with their class work. All tests will be announced in advanced.
  5. **Cheating and plagiarism:** Cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated at Montgomery High School. Any student proved guilty of such activity will automatically receive a failing grade for the specific item on which the cheating or plagiarism occurred. A call will be made to notify your parent or guardian. And a Discipline Report will be filed with the school.

### **IV. EXAMINATIONS:**

End of semester examinations will be given in each course both semesters during specifically scheduled examination periods. Final and midterm examinations will be presented as a separate letter grades on student report cards.

### **V. COMPUTATION OF THE FINAL COURSE GRADE:**

- A. Final grades will be calculated district wide as follows:
1. Year-long courses: The midterm and final examination grades count as 10% each and are averaged with the 4 other marking period grades which count 20% each.