

Anderson County High School
Pre-AP Physical Science
Mr. Cox
2020-2021

Teacher Contact Information:

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Course Description: This course offers a broad introduction to the major ideas and basic concepts in classical physics and astronomy. Next Generation Science Standards in physical science and Earth science are employed to form the framework for the course. Students will participate in small group activities, web-based investigations, class discussion, projects, lecture and note-taking, summarizing, and research. The academic goal of the course is to provide students with the strong fundamentals in physical science necessary in preparation for further study in advanced placement courses.

Cooperative learning structures are as safety allows. As such, like most adults in the workplace, students are expected to work as a team member in small groups or in pairs to complete tasks and accomplish goals. While some learning will take place in a cooperative environment, students will be assessed on an individual basis.

Daily Procedures

1. Students should be in the classroom and moving to their seats when the tardy bell sounds.
2. Students should have a pen or pencil, paper, and a notebook or folder for keeping track of course materials, notes, assignments, etc.
3. The agenda for the day and learning targets will be written on the board.
4. Students should begin work immediately on the 'bell ringer,' a recall or focusing activity usually written on the board.
5. Students are expected to work cooperatively and respectfully with their peers.
6. You should, at some point in every class, have a laugh. At the very least smile a little.

Tardiness

Students not in the classroom when the tardy bell sounds are tardy. The first offense will result in a warning. Subsequent infractions will be referred for disciplinary measures as per school policy (refer to student handbook).

Cellphones

Students may not use or possess cellphones while in the classroom. It is recommended they store their phones in their lockers. Upon entering the classroom, students in possession of phones are expected to silence them, including vibration or LED notifications, and place them in the storage bag provided for that purpose. Phones can be retrieved at the end of class.

Hall Passes

Students are expected to be in class. While the occasional need to leave the classroom arises, these departures should be limited to the extent possible. Abuse of hall passes will result in the loss of their use. **Students must have their agenda signed as the hall pass, and must also sign out on the hall pass clipboard posted near the exit.**

Attention Signal

I will use a 'high five' signal when attention is needed. When I hold up my hand and say, "High Five," students should cease all talking, look at me, and hold their hand up as well so I know I have their attention.

General Expectations

- 1) Observe all district and school policies. (Refer to your Student Handbook)
- 2) Interact with others in a respectful and courteous manner.
- 3) Come to class prepared. Have any due assignments and needed materials, and be ready to participate with your group and in the class.
- 4) Behave as if you understand the primacy of knowledge over ignorance.

Missing/Late Assignments

Students who are absent when an assignment is made will be allowed additional time to make it up. The extended time is generally three days, but is granted only if the absence is excused. Work can be made up for unexcused absences but will be given a point deduction for the late submission.

Absences do not warrant extra time for assignments that were made when the student was present. Exceptions can be made for circumstances beyond the student's control but require a parent or guardian to contact me.

Masks and Sanitation

Students are required to wear masks at all times except in cases where social distancing can be maintained. This determination is based on the number of students in a given classroom and the square footage of that classroom. **THIS IS NON-NEGOTIABLE.**

Class will wrap up a few minutes before the bell rings so that the teacher can sanitize desks, door knobs, etc. prior to the class change.

NTI (Non-Traditional Instruction)

In these uncertain times it may become necessary to close schools again due to COVID-19 cases in the school or community. In this case those students attending school in-person will continue their classes from home. NTI is the teachers' plan of action to continue classes for those in-person students.

Should NTI become necessary, this class will continue uninterrupted with daily lessons posted as videos online by the teacher. Links to those videos, as well as any assignments or supplemental information, will be posted in the teacher's Google classroom. Students will be expected to watch the lessons every school day and complete the assignments as before.

Grading

Work – 60% (Activities, homework, practice assignments, classroom work, daily participation, etc.)

Assessments – 40% (Unit exams, quizzes, and culminating projects)

Work and Assessment categories will sum to 100% of the nine-weeks or semester grade, *but only 80% of the course grade. The final 20% of the course grade is the semester final exam.*

Final Exam – 20% (Comprehensive course assessment)

Semester or nine weeks grade calculation

$(0.6 \times \text{work grade}) + (0.4 \times \text{Assessment grade}) = \text{Semester or nine weeks grade}$

Final Course Grade Calculation

$(0.8 \times \text{Semester grade}) + (0.2 \times \text{Final Exam}) = \textbf{Course Grade}$

90-100 = A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

65-69 = D

0-64 = F