

College Physics Fall 2007

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Dear Students and Parents,

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Welcome to one of the more fun and challenging courses offered at Hannibal High School. Students may elect to take this course for traditional Regents credit or for Onondaga Community College PHYS103 (4 sem hrs) credit by paying the reduced OCC tuition of \$45 per semester hour, \$180 total. Regardless of the enrollment choice, the curriculum will be the same for the students and all will be taking the physics Regents exam in January as part of the course requirements.

Fundamental math skills are required for success in this course: algebra, basic trig, systems of equations, scientific notation, and logical problem solving. Successful completion or concurrent enrollment in Math B is required for course enrollment. A scientific or graphing calculator is required for use in class, lab, and homework daily. Students will use math as a tool for solving real world problems throughout this course. As with any math course or athletic sport, practice is the key for developing skills; the same is true for physics.

Students will complete more than 20 labs over the course of the semester. Each lab is REQUIRED to be successfully completed (75% or better) to be able to pass the course, whether enrolled only for Regents credit or for OCC PHYS103 credit. Lab data will be recorded in a hardbound lab notebook that I provide. Lab reports will be written in a formal style and typically require substantial time and effort to complete well.

I encourage students to take this opportunity to learn how to truly study, manage time, and to figure out how they learn best BEFORE they are in their freshman year of college. This class typically challenges most students at one time or another during the semester. I am available for extra help after school, during my planning, or my lunch. I encourage students to ask for assistance right away due to the concept-building nature of the course. Student success depends upon putting **honest effort** into trying to learn the material, asking questions, and PRACTICING problem solving by completing homework assignments.

Grades will be determined by quiz and test performance, lab report grades, occasional homework assignments collected unannounced, and final exam scores. Typically labs count between 25% to 30% of any marking period grade, HW approximately 15%, and quiz/tests will be the remaining percentage. The final exam score is 20% of the final grade.

I provide a number of online resources on my class website as well as the current list of homework assignments due. A hardcopy of a two week homework planner is provided so that students with busy schedules can better manage their time and obligations. It is a RARE weeknight that does not include a homework assignment...

Questions or concerns can be directed to me by phone, email, or in person. Phone: 564-7910 ext 4129 or email: cburch@hannibalcsd.org I am eager to work with students and parents to raise student achievement. Keep in mind that like a sport, physics skills come from practice. Few would disagree that without practice a team will most likely do poorly in a competition. In twelve years of teaching physics, it is **only** the "unpracticed" students who fail: those who do not do homework and fail to ask for extra help when they don't understand.



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www.hannibalcsd.org/teacherwebs/cburch