

Honors Physics - Course Syllabus

Michigan Center High School

Instructor Name: Mr. Pete Alderman

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Course Description: This is a college-prep course that includes both a conceptual foundation and a mathematically-based study of physics. Students will learn how the laws of physics allow us to understand, describe, and predict the all that surrounds us. Through inquiry-based investigations, laboratories, demonstrations, both individual and group projects, and other activities, students will develop an understanding of physics concepts in a way that is representative of real world applications.

Course Goals: By successfully completing this course, students will...

- Investigate the concepts of motion and forces
 - How to study motion
 - Graphing, describing and measuring motion
 - Forces that cause motion
 - Projectile motion
 - Newton's Laws of Motion.
- Investigates the concepts of energy and waves
 - Transfer of energy
 - Electricity
 - Magnetism
 - Waves (mechanical, sound, light)
 - Properties of light
- Investigate topics in cosmology
- cursorily investigate topics in modern physics such as Relativity and Quantum Mechanics

Required Daily Supplies:

- Pencil and eraser (highlighters are also recommended)
- 3-Ring Binder or 5 Subject Spiral Notebook
- Graphing Calculator (TI-83+, TI-84+, or TI-NSpire CX CAS recommended)
- Physics Textbook (provided by MCHS)
- MCHS Student Agenda

Textbook: Holt Physics 1st Ed. (R.A. Serway, ©2009 – ISBN 978-0-03036-816-5). Students are responsible for any textbook damages or loss.

Requested Supplies for Class:

- Box of Tissues
- Clorox® Disinfecting Wipes
- Hand Sanitizer

Grading Policy: The following is the policy for determining your quarterly grades

- Classwork and Homework (25% of quarterly grade) including in-class projects, homework checks, and chapter review packets.
- Quizzes and Tests (75% of quarterly grade) consisting of weekly mini-quizzes and chapter or tests.

Your first and second semester grades will both consist of your quarterly grades (40% each) and a semester exam (20%).

Grading Scale: The following grading scale, as determined by MCHS, will be used to calculate quarter and semester grades.

A+	(100%)	C	(73% - 77.99%)
A	(93% - 99.99%)	C-	(70% - 72.99%)
A-	(90% - 92.99%)	D+	(68% - 69.99%)
B+	(88% - 89.99%)	D	(63% - 67.99%)
B	(83% - 87.99%)	D-	(60% - 62.99%)
B-	(80% - 82.99%)	E	(below 59.99%)
C+	(78% - 79.99%)		

Grades are posted to PowerSchool regularly. Both students and parents are encouraged to refer to PowerSchool frequently and to proactively monitor student progress.

General class rules:

- Be respectful to teachers and faculty, classmates, and your school.
- Be responsible for your success, your learning, your choices, and your actions.

Class policies:

- Students are not allowed to interrupt and distract class.
- As an honors class, MCHS policy does not allow for retakes on quizzes or tests in this class. If a student wishes to retake a quiz or test, they may do so only by electing to lose the additional "honors credit" normally awarded for this class.
- Students are not allowed to talk during tests and quizzes. Unauthorized talking will result in a zero.
- Food is not allowed in class. Drinks are allowed, provided the student takes care of all trash and any mess.
- Cell phones, MP3 players, and other electronic devices are allowed in class only during appropriate times, and only for appropriate uses. Any actions that are inappropriate or distract others are prohibited and will result in confiscation of the device.

Expectations:

- Attend class regularly, and come to class prepared, including bringing all necessary materials, a positive attitude, a willingness to work, and a commitment to contribute to the learning environment.
- Academic honesty is a must, and cheating/copying will not be tolerated. All parties involved in cheating will receive a zero according to the MCHS student handbook.
- Student work needs to be neat and legible. Problems must be numbered, all work must be shown, and all answers must be circled or otherwise identified in order to receive credit.
- Follow all school rules at all times.