

# Welcome to Physics!

Physics is a branch of science that seeks to uncover the many hidden patterns in our universe. The goals of this course are to stress scientific thinking processes, laboratory techniques, data collection and interpretation, communication skills, and to show the relevance of science to society and everyday life.

Science is a collaborative effort, and in our class, we give voice to all opinions. Regardless of the position taken, we may criticize ideas, but never individuals. I cannot emphasize this enough. The skills and thought processes learned in this class can provide a solid foundation for achievement in other disciplines, not only those considered to be “science.”

While this course is designed to be challenging, my hope is that our investigations – whether virtual, in person, or at home – will build upon your natural human curiosity, and that you will wonder about the world in new ways throughout the year. I am confident you can be successful in this course, and please know that I am here to help when challenges do arise. I’m looking forward to a wonderful year together, whatever form it takes.

Mr. Valsamis  
[avalsamis@glenbrook225.org](mailto:avalsamis@glenbrook225.org)  
[www.valsamisphysics.com](http://www.valsamisphysics.com)  
847.509.2618

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## **Materials:**

Here’s what you will need in class every day:

- Chromebook or other personal device
- A notebook just for physics
- A scientific calculator (trig functions, at a minimum)
- Pen and pencil
- A good attitude and sense of adventure

In addition, you should have a folder or binder to store worksheets, homework and handouts.

Here’s what you *may* need to have for class:

- Your textbook (digital access)
- A device that can film lab activities (a smartphone works great!)

**Grades:** Grading is composed of four elements:

- Tests & Quizzes – 35%
- Labs – 35%
- Homework – 20%
- Classwork/Participation – 10%

Because each grading component contributes individually, it is important that you give attention to each. For example, if your percentage is low in labs, it can be difficult to make up for that by doing well on homework or tests.

Although classwork/participation may seem small, if you are on the fence between grades, this percentage has the ability to push you to a higher level. It is wise to stay engaged in activities throughout the year.

Extra credit – opportunities may present themselves from time to time. If you have a suggestion for an extra credit project or activity, let me know and I’ll be happy to give it some consideration.

The grading scale is:

90 – 100	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
60 – 69	D
Below 60	F

**Academic honesty:**

Many assignments in physics will be collaborative. However, cheating, copying from a friend, or plagiarizing published material will result in a zero for the work.

**Late work:**

WileyPlus homework will be due by the end of the day on the due date. Unless you have made special arrangements with me, points will be deducted for late work.

Late homework will suffer a penalty of 50%.

Lab reports and other major, typewritten projects are generally collected at the beginning of class on the date specified. If you do not have your assignment ready at class time, you may submit that work for late credit. Clear instructions and guidelines will be given for the submission of digital work. Points for late labs and projects will be deducted according to this schedule:

1 day late: – 1 Letter grade lower  
2 days late: – 2 Letter grades lower  
3 days and over: no points will be awarded.

**Absences:**

Attendance is taken daily at the start of class. Please be in your seat (or our digital classroom), and ready to learn when the bell rings.

If you are absent, please check the google classroom to find what you missed.

Please notify me of upcoming field trips as far in advance as possible. You are responsible for completion of any work you missed due to a field trip.

If you miss a lab, see me as soon as possible to schedule a time when you can make it up.

If you miss a test or quiz, you need to take it as soon as possible. Please communicate your plan with me.

**Unexcused absences:**

Work cannot be made up for unexcused absences. This includes tests, labs, and other assignments.

**Final Exams:**

Final Exams will account for 20% of your total grade first semester and 5% of your total grade second semester.

**Availability:**

My teaching schedule is listed below. If you need help or have questions, feel free to request a meeting outside of these class times. Please note that requesting a meeting the day before will be much easier to accommodate than an immediate request via a frantic email.

Block	Green	Gold
1	AP Physics C	AP Physics C SRT  Office hours second half of block
2		
3	PCB Physics	PCB Physics
4	Guided Studies	PCB Physics

*This is most important:* If you have a problem, concern, or need help, please do not hesitate to ask me. Do not wait until the last minute — in my experience, physics and cramming do not make for the best combination.

**That said...**