

## **Additional Information on Grading Policies**

### *Physics*

In addition to what is outlined in the course syllabus, students and parents should understand the following specific goals and policies regarding student work in physics.

#### **Homework:**

In this class, the primary purpose of homework is not to practice an already-learned skill. Instead, homework should be used as a learning tool. Therefore, homework will not generally be graded for accuracy or even completion on a regular basis. However, occasionally I will randomly collect problems from individual students and grade them. For full credit, the problems must be done correctly with all work shown (please note that the Physics binder in the classroom has every problem worked out and includes solutions). Homework problems may be graded at any time starting one week after the assignment has been posted to the class website, Google Classroom, or the class calendar. There is no limit on the number of problems that will be graded over the course of a semester; however, each time a student turns in a problem it will decrease the chances of that student being required to turn in another problem in the future.

There will be no make-up assignments or re-dos for homework grades.

#### **Daily Checklist:**

At the end of most class periods, students will be asked to fill out a quick, electronic checklist. The checklist will not be graded every day, but students should expect that a grade will be given once every one or two weeks. Grades on the checklist will be given based on completion and thoroughness.

#### **Quizzes:**

Quizzes will be given on most Friday "All" days (and occasionally on other days during the week). Quizzes will be closed-note and will usually be comparable to a homework problem that was assigned during the previous week. Quizzes will be carefully graded for accuracy and all work should be shown for full credit.

There will be no re-takes for quizzes.

#### **Labs:**

Labs will be graded based on clear documented evidence of thoughtful learning. Accuracy in measurements and calculations will be weighted less heavily than indications of careful consideration of the data collected and computed. Students are encouraged to collaborate with each other and with the instructor in order to master the lab objectives; however, lab reports should be done individually and be unambiguously unique.

Since thoughtful learning is largely a product of effort, students who work hard to complete the lab objectives and turn in a well-crafted lab report will typically get at least an 80% on the assignment. If a student does poorly on a lab, he or she is welcome to design and carry out a

“proficiency demonstration” – a new activity, created by the student and approved by me, that meets the same learning goals as the original lab. (Proficiency demonstrations will only be available to students who turned their original labs in on time, with reasonable visible effort.) The score for the proficiency demonstration will replace the original lab score. Details for proficiency demonstrations will be given after the 1<sup>st</sup> lab has been graded.

**Tests:**

Tests will be graded for accuracy of process and completeness of the work shown. Students do not need to get an answer right in order to get the majority of the points for that question; computational errors will decrease scores by a relatively small amount. The tests will be designed to closely resemble both the homework questions (including study guides) and lab activities. Students who want to do well on the tests should have a strong mastery of all the learning objectives for the unit and should be able to clearly demonstrate the ability to solve a variety of different types of problems.

There will be no re-takes on tests. Students who miss a test due to an excused absence (whether pre-arranged or otherwise) will not be permitted to use a sheet of notes and will be given a different test form. However, students taking a make-up test are encouraged to discuss the original test with other students.