Physics

Dan Bregar

Contact Information

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Course Description

Physics is the branch of science that seeks to describe and explain all aspects of our natural world and universe. Physicists seek to unify our understanding of natural phenomenon with a smaller, more concise body of knowledge and relationships.

Course Standards

This course is designed to address the following Next Generation Science Standards: HS-PS2-1, HS-PS2-2, HS-PS2-3, HS-PS2-4, HS-PS2-5, HS-PS2-6, HS-PS3-1, HS-PS3-2, HS-PS3-5, HS-ESS-1-4

Instructional Activities

Students will explore physics concepts through class lectures, discussions, and lab activities. There will be time in class to practice the skills taught; further learning and practice through homework will be essential for students to master the course content.

Grading and Assessment

Assessments ***of learning*** will be the primary indicator in calculating a student's grade, while assignments that are primarily practice ***for learning*** will be weighted much lower.

Tests are not the only form of an assessment of learning-- labs, speeches, projects, essays***,*** research papers, and critical analysis are other examples of these types of assignments. Depending on the purpose, these assessed tasks may be required to be completed in-class or at home. At the same time, practice for learning might be in-class guided practice, participation, daily homework, or the preliminary parts of larger assignments. The grade for a course will be calculated by combining the two categories to create a final percentage. Pinnacle will generally be updated at least every 7-10 days.

Attendance, misbehaviors, and other non-academic factors shall not directly impact student grades, but they will be addressed via school discipline.

In some circumstances, students might want to request a grade of "G" (no grade given) or "I" (incomplete) at the end of a semester. All requests must be approved by me and must be accompanied by a written contract of what additional work a student will do and when that work will be submitted.

In the science department, assessments will count for 80% of a student's grade while practice work will count for the remaining 20%. Grades will be rounded to the nearest whole percentage with no exceptions. Please see my website for additional information regarding homework grades, quizzes, labs, and proficiency demonstrations.

Late work (including tests, quizzes, labs and other classwork) will generally not be accepted past the due date. Exceptions will be made for work due to excused absences and other extenuating circumstances. If you do not turn in your work on the due date, you should complete an "Extension Request Form" – available on my web site – as soon as possible. I will use this information to determine whether or not your score will be entered into the gradebook. If you fail to complete this form, you should expect no credit for your late work.

I will allow students to take or complete tests after the assigned date ONLY when it has been pre-arranged before the day of the test or it is necessary due to an excused absence on the day of the test. Students who take or complete tests after the assigned date may be subject to limitations regarding the use of notes and other materials. **All late work, including tests, must be turned in within five school days of the original due date.**

Re-Assessment for Standards
All missing work (including assignments recorded with a 0% weight, class notes, and lab preparation) will be required to be completed before additional opportunities to meet standards are offered. This additional work may take the form of test questions, lab activities, or individual presentations.

Your additional work will be used to determine if you have met the course standards. It will not change your grade in the class.

Academic Integrity
Students are expected to submit their own work on assignments, projects, reports, and examinations. Prohibited acts of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

- Giving unauthorized assistance to other students
- Receiving unauthorized assistance from other students
- Reproducing, reformatting, or paraphrasing the work of others as your own (plagiarism)
- Using or sharing prohibited study aids or other written materials on tests or assignments
- Sharing false information or knowingly misleading another to reach a false answer or conclusion
- Using an online translator to complete work in a World Language class
- Inappropriately modifying work without teacher approval

Please refer to page 23 in the Student Handbook for further details on Academic Dishonesty and its consequences.

Tardy Policy
Physics will begin promptly each day; please be prepared and ready to learn at the start of each period. Detentions and other consequences may result from repeated tardies (more than 2).

Attendance Policy
Teachers will notify students and parents/guardians when unexcused absences begin affecting the student's participation or performance in a class. When a teacher refers a student who is accumulating excessive absences, the administrator may initiate necessary conferences, contracts, as well as other appropriate interventions and consequences.

Personal Electronics Policy
The Personal Electronics Policy for Crescent Valley High School will be followed in this course. Please see the student handbook/planner for details of this policy.

In general, I expect personal electronics will be used as a learning tool and they will not become a distraction in the class. If I perceive that they are becoming a problem, they will be confiscated and given to the office to return at the end of the day. Repeated issues will result in further consequences.

Classroom Behavior Expectations
I expect all students to help me maintain a positive, supportive learning environment. Please be respectful to yourselves and to others.

Please detach this portion of the Course Description, sign and date it, and return it to the instructor.

Student Name_____ (printed neatly)

I have read the Course Description and understand what is expected of me in this course.

_____
Student Signature Date

I have read the Course Description and understand what is expected of my student in this course.

_____
Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Parents, please include your phone number and e-mail below.