

# Physics Syllabus

## Course Introduction and Requirements 2014-15



**Instructor:** Mr. Liddell  
Tahquitz High School  
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**COURSE CONTENT AND GOAL:** Physics is a college-preparatory lab-based course covering the activities and fields that involve the major areas within physics. The program emphasizes experiments from modern and classical principles of physics. The major areas studied will be mechanics, thermodynamics, wave and optics, electromagnetism, theory of relativity, and quantum mechanics. The goal of physics is to use a number of basic concepts, equations, and assumptions to make predictions and describe the physical world. Physics is a moderately rigorous course for the college bound student who likes to be actively involved with science and current technology. The course parallels the state framework requirements for high school level physics and meets UC acceptance as a laboratory science.

**TEXTBOOK:** Holt Physics, by Holt, Rinehart and Winston; Harcourt Publishing Company.

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

- **Syllabus:** returned signed by student & parent/guardian
- **Composition Notebook:** for Notes & Labs (spiral notebooks not recommend)
- **Writing Utensils:** pencils are preferred for calculations
- **Scientific Calculator:** must have LOG key, (recommend Texas Instruments TI-30Xa or similar)

**GRADING POLICY:** There will typically be weekly lecture notes, class work, and starters. Quizzes will generally be bi-weekly with one test per unit. Labs and Current Science Articles will also be assigned. These assignments will require the student to use lab data, newspapers, internet, or other resources outside of class time to do research and document it scientifically. Homework will be given weekly and will be due within 7 days. If a student is going to be absent on an assignment due date, prior arrangements should be made. Any late work turned in within one week of due date will count for half credit; after one week it will count as zero.

**Grading Scale:** 100-90% = A 89-80% = B 79-70% = C 69-60% = D Below 60% = F

Grades are calculated by a total point method and then converted into percent. Student progress can be checked on Aeries and will also be given out during the triad.

**TESTS AND QUIZZES:** Tests are given periodically throughout the year with advance notice. Quizzes will be given biweekly. If a student must miss an exam or quiz for any reason **it is the responsibility of the student to notify me as soon as possible.** Make-up tests are only given during lunch or before/after school.

Assignment Type	% of Final Grade
Test & Quarter Exams	35%
Lab work, class work, & participation	40%
Homework & Current Science	15%
Quizzes	10%

**LABS, CLASS WORK/PARTICIPATION /ATTENDANCE:** In order for students to be successful they MUST attend class. Completed class work is often graded by stamp point system and totaled every three weeks. Extra credit participation stamps are also given to those students who come to class focused, prepared, and get involved in the discussion. If you are absent, it is the students' responsibility to see me about the notes/make-up work & check the board for the homework. Students may not make up work from unexcused absences.

**HOMEWORK:** Physics requires about 30-60 minutes per night for homework plus time needed to prepare for tests. The homework will usually consist of mathematical word problems. Your notes and homework should be studied, along with in class worked problems from the board. The homework will reinforce class activities and help guarantee understanding.

**TARDY POLICY:** It is very important for students to be in class on time. Students earn points by completing the daily Starter Activity and quizzes during the first 5-10 minutes of class. The school tardy policy will be enforced.

<u>CLASSROOM RULES:</u>	<u>SCHOOL RULES:</u>
1. Be Respectful	1. No food, drink, or gum in class or lab
2. Be on Time	2. Follow all School and Lab Behavioral Expectations
3. Be Focused	3. Follow all School and Lab Dress Codes
4. Be Prepared	4. Cell Phones & other digital devices must be turned off
5. Be in attendance everyday	5. The teacher dismisses the class, not the bell!

**RELEVANCE/APPLICATION/CAREER PATHWAYS:**

Geophysicist      Medical Physicist      Inventor      Radiation Protection  
 Pharmacist      Engineer      Energy Exploration      Research and Development

**TIPS FOR SUCCESS**

- **Strive to learn** and not just for a letter grade.
- **Plan ahead**, read and complete homework assignments
- **Read the textbook!** The additional information you will help you understand the notes more.
- **Be responsible!** Never leave your composition notebook at home.
- **Ask for help!** Mr. Liddell welcomes your questions. Also feel free to ask a classmate for help.
- **Have fun!** Learning is much more rewarding if you participate.

**PLEASE RETURN THE BOTTOM PORTION OF THE SYLLABUS SIGNED BY STUDENT AND YOUR PARENT/GUARDIAN TO MR. LIDDELL BY \_\_\_\_\_ FOR HOMEWORK CREDIT.**

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**By signing this document I signify that I understand that I am held accountable for my actions in this class; therefore I will be focused, prepared, and ready to work everyday. I have read and understand all course expectations and consequences from the syllabus. I will maintain a Successful Science attitude.**

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**Student Signature** **(Date)**

**I, the parent/guardian of the above student, have read and understand the course syllabus, and all classroom expectations. I realize that in order for my student to be successful I must provide them with educational support. I know that if I have questions about my student's grade I can call/text Mr. Liddell at (951) 330-2882 or by e-mail at [tliddell@hemetusd.org](mailto:tliddell@hemetusd.org). I understand that my student will be notified of any changes to this syllabus, and that I can view homework and course documents from the school website.**

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**Parent / Guardian Signature** **Contact Phone Number** **(Date)**