

Conceptual Physics 2011-2012

Mrs. Randall
Room 1429

Welcome to Conceptual Physics! I hope that we will all have an exciting and wonderful year together. This course will provide you with an overview of fundamental physics concepts including: motion, Newton's Laws of Motion, principles of conservation, energy and energy transformations, sound and light waves, electricity, and magnetism. We will also be practicing the skills that all scientists use in order to find out more about the world around them.

In this handout, I will explain some of the basic things that you can expect from this class and some things that I will expect from you. Please **KEEP THIS IN YOUR NOTEBOOK** as a reminder of my expectations.

Materials: For this class, there are a few items that you will need to purchase and bring to class EVERYDAY. Please have all materials by **Monday, August 29, 2011**.

1. **1 ½" Three Ring Binder** – This will be used to keep all notes, handouts and graded papers.
2. **Dividers with 8 Tabs** – These will be used to organize your notebook. I will let you know what to label each section in class.
3. **Pencil and Paper** – You must bring at least **one pencil** to class everyday! If you choose to do assignments in ink, only blue or black ink is permitted. **I WILL NOT ACCEPT WORK IF ANY OTHER COLOR IS USED!!!**

Rules: I expect you to:

1. Bring all needed materials to class.
2. Be in your seat and ready to work when the period begins.
3. Respect and be polite to all people and respect their belongings.
4. Listen and stay seated when someone else is talking.
5. Obey all school rules.
6. Do your own work.

Consequences: Consequences may include verbal warnings, phone calls home, loss of points, after school detentions, and referrals to the principal depending on the severity and frequency of the offense.

Safety First: We will be doing a lot of hands-on laboratory exercises throughout the school year. Whenever we are working on labs, I will expect you to act maturely and to follow procedures exactly as they are explained to you. Horseplay and inappropriate behavior of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action, including a loss of points for the lab.

Cheating: Cheating is a serious problem. It is important to know that **BOTH the person who copies work and the person who gives their work to be copied are equally guilty of cheating and will suffer the same consequences**. In my class, any person caught cheating will receive a zero for the assignment as well as an after school detention. In science, where a lot of work is done in groups, it will be vital that you participate in the group as a contributing member and that you are able to put your answers in your own words so that you are not guilty of cheating. *Allowing other members of your group to come up with data and answers and then copying the group's work **does** constitute cheating.*

If you are absent: If you are absent there are several things that you need to do. First, bring me your excuse slip at the beginning of class. Next, go the extras box at the front of the room. Read the summary of what we did on the days that you missed and what you need to make up in the make-up notebook. Collect any worksheets that you missed from the extras box. If you are unsure or have any questions, please ask. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE UP ANY AND ALL WORK THAT YOU MISS!**

Grading: I use a point system to calculate your grade. Each assignment, lab, or test will be worth a predetermined number of points. Your grade will be determined by taking the total number of points you earn and dividing that number by the total points possible and then converting that number to a percent. (For example, if there are 1000 total points possible and you earn 929 points, your grade would be $929/1000 = 0.929 \times 100\% = 92.9\% = A.$)

Homework: Homework will be assigned on a regular basis. I expect you to read and follow directions, write legibly, show your work (where appropriate), and turn in your assignments on time. Most assignments will be graded on your effort (see below) and will help you to understand the material to be successful on tests and quizzes. Some assignments will be graded for quality (most online assignments). Completion of ALL homework for a unit is required to be completed on time if you wish to retake any test. Homework is not accepted late for credit!

Effort grading:

- 2: Student attempted more than 90 % of all problems; work shown where applicable.
- 1: Student attempted more than 60% of the problems; work shown where applicable.
- 0: Student completed less than 60% or work not shown.

Test Retakes: Students will be able to retake most tests provided that certain conditions are met. All homework assignments must be completed for the unit that the test covers. Test corrections on the original test must be completed. Finally, all retakes must be completed by the date announced (typically one week after they have been returned). Additional assignments may also need to be completed before the retake to assure that you have reviewed and learned the material that you did not previously master. ***The original test grade and the retest grade will be AVERAGED together for the final grade!*** This policy may be modified through the year.

Contacting Me: If you need to contact me for any reason, please do not hesitate to do so in person, by phone, or by email. Email is definitely the best way to reach me! I will set up a time to meet with you so that we can discuss your concern.

Voicemail: 740-657-4100 ext. 2193

Email: kimberly_randall@olentangy.k12.oh.us

Website: www.randallscience.com

Name: (please print neatly!) _____

Student and Parent Signatures: I have read and understand the outline for Mrs. Randall's science class.

Student _____ Date _____

Parent _____ Date _____