



Southern Lehigh School District

High School Syllabus

HONORS PHYSICS

2014-2015

Course Description:

Honors Physics is a laboratory science course which focuses on several different areas of Physics. The first and main consideration is the branch of physics known as mechanics, which includes the sub-branches of kinematics (the study of motion) and dynamics (the study of forces). Other areas are thermodynamics (heat) and waves and their properties. The honors section will also have an introductory study in electricity (static electricity and simple, direct current circuits). The course requires rigorous mathematical capability as well as the ability to solve problems and use critical thinking skills. The lab component compliments the area of study and involves hands-on skills and the practical application of learned material.

Course Content:

I. Introduction

- Math tool kit, metric system, significant figures
- Algebra skills
- Precision: commonly used instruments in labs
- Lab: measurement and precision

II. Motion in One Dimension

- Acceleration, velocity
- Kinematic equations
- Gravity
- Labs: accelerated motion, motion at a constant velocity, acceleration due to gravity

III. Motion in Two Dimensions

- Projectile Motion
- Simple harmonic motion
- Lab: projectile motion

IV. Vectors

- Vector addition
- Vector resolution
- Forces on an incline
- Labs: vector components, vector addition, forces on an incline

V. Forces

- Newton's three laws of motion
- Frictional forces
- Labs: force of friction, force board

VI. Circular Motion

- Universal Gravitation
- Astronomical history
- Kepler's laws
- Lab: orbital simulator

VII. Momentum

- Impulse and change of momentum
- Conservation of momentum
- Labs: impulse/change of momentum and conservation of momentum

VIII. Work and Power

- Introduction to the work-energy theorem
- Lab: horsepower

IX. Energy

- Potential and kinetic energy
- Reinforcement of the work-energy theorem
- Labs: conservation of energy labs

X. Thermodynamics

- Laws of thermodynamics
- Heat energy and changes state
- Labs: specific heat, heat of fusion

XI. Periodic Motion/Waves

- Pendulums
- Springs
- Waves
- Properties of light
- Optics
- Sound
- Labs: pendulum lab, Snell's Law

XII. Electricity

- Static electricity, electric fields
- Direct current electricity
 - 1. Series circuits
 - 2. Parallel circuits
 - 3. Compound circuits
- 4. Labs: DC circuitry, electric field

Required Textbooks and/or Other Reading/Research Materials

The textbook is used as a supplemental source for additional examples and problems.

Physics: Principles & Problems by Zitzewitz, Haase, Harper. Glencoe, 2013.

Course Requirements:

Prerequisites: Completion of PRE-CALCULUS or PRE-CALCULUS taken currently

Grade Components/Assessments:

Grades will be weighted based on a category percentage. Sapphire will automatically give a student's grade total as a weighted percentage based on the following category percentage breakdown:

Test/Quizzes: 50%

Labs/Projects: 30%

Homework/Class participation: 20%

Each marking period is worth 20% of a student's overall grade. The final is worth 20% of a student's overall average:

Quarter 1	20%
Quarter 2	20%
Quarter 3	20%
Quarter 4	20%
Final	20%

Required Summer Reading/Assignments:

There are no summer reading assignments.