

**course summary**

This is a rigorous first-year college prep physics course for students who wish to understand better how physics relates to their lives. The class requires a strong commitment and will challenge every student's problem solving and success skills.

**course outline**

- ***How do things move?***

- ***linear motion***

- Kinematics, Mechanics, Collisions, Newton's Laws, Work/Energy/Power

- ***vibrational motion***

- Simple Harmonic Motion, Waves, Sound, Light, Optics

- ***Why do things move?***

- ***gravitation***

- Newton's Law of Gravity, Satellite Orbits

- ***electricity***

- Electrostatics, Electric Energy and Power, Circuits

- ***magnetism***

- Magnetic Materials, Electromagnetism, Induction

**instructor**

Joe Murray  
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This year I will also soon have a website for the class. PLEASE check this often, especially if you have any questions about the class. If you still have a question please feel free to contact me via the information above (e-mail is best). You can access my website from the VMHS website.

**text**

*Glencoe Physics.* McGraw Hill Publishing.

**materials**

In addition to the standard materials you need for any class, you must bring the following items to class every day:

- *Graph paper*
- *Metric ruler and protractor*
- *Calculator and Flashdrive*

The very minimum you will need is a scientific calculator with exponential and trigonometry functions. Cell phones and pocket organizers will not be allowed to substitute for a calculator. *There will be no calculator sharing on quizzes or tests.* You must bring your own calculator if you want to use one.

- *Your student ID card with a computer use sticker.*  
You will also need to know your login name and password.

## grading

Check the “Physics Resources” link off of my webpage for information regarding grading.

### ➤ **grade reports**

My goal every year is to update grades on ABI every 2 weeks. Please check grades more often than that though. Please also remember that grades that can be viewed online are the “Last Updated Grades” and not necessarily the exact grade you have on the day you check them.

### ➤ **assignment listings**

Daily assignments are posted every other day on the assignment links on my webpage and should be checked immediately if ever absent. You do not need to wait until the next day you have this class. If an assignment has an “assigned date” recorded, then it has been officially assigned for the current school year. Any assignments that don’t have “assigned dates” may or may not be assigned in the future (depending on whether improvements to the current school year are named).

## class procedures and policies

- Making up work that you missed due to absence *for any reason* is your responsibility. If you miss a test, you will make up the test during the next class period you are back. If you miss any classes before a test, you will have 1 week to schedule any appointments needed to get the information missed and to make-up the test. If you miss a quiz, it must be made up at the beginning of the first class period you are back. This will avoid you being present, while I go over the answers to the quiz. You are responsible for making up anything missed while you were making up the exam or quiz. If you make up a test, it will not be scored until your parents personally excuse your absence on my voicemail (6653). NOT E-MAIL!!! On this voicemail message your parents need to indicate they are aware you missed an exam. This is my “test and quiz” make up policy and there are no exceptions. If you miss a lab, you have one week from when we did that assignment to make it up. If you do not make it up within that one week, I will record an “NM” (No Mark -o) for that assignment. Afternoons are my only make up sessions. Lunches and mornings have to be made by appointment only. There is a sign-up calendar in the back of the room to schedule your makeup time. Classes are 90 minutes long so please plan to stay the whole 90 minutes. No makeup assignments will be done during a class period (Unless you have early release or late start and you schedule an appointment) or if the absence is not excused. Don’t even ask, please.
- My handback policy is this. I will handback all items the following class AFTER the grades for that item has been posted. This gives every student ample opportunity to make up the work. My policy is based on the fact that once an item has been handed back, it cannot be made up. If, after something has been handed back, you have a problem with what has been graded, you must immediately give back that item and then deal with your concern as soon as possible. Never throw away anything handed back - ALL YEAR LONG!!!
- This is a college-prep class in more ways than one. The content area is important for anyone attending college, in a scientific field or not, however, just as importantly, *you* are the only person responsible for your work in this class. I will not be looking over your shoulder making sure you turn assignments in. If you miss a class, it will be *your* responsibility to make sure you get the notes and assignments from that day. All you need to do is check the assignment calendar on the wall or possibly the website before you even come back.
- I am available for help outside of classtime, but please make an appointment. You are welcome and encouraged to come see me to talk about how you are doing or ask specific questions. Your progress in this course is your responsibility, so you will need to be aware of your understanding and recognize when you might need extra help. Students who seek extra help ALWAYS put themselves in a more successful position.
- Late work is defined as any assignment not collected when it is due. If the assignment is late due to an excused absence it will receive full credit only after my computer shows that the absence has been excused with an excused absence accepted by CA Education Code. This process is nullified one week after the absence. Credit for late work will depend on the quality and will never exceed 1/2 credit. Late work is not graded until the end of every term, and will only be graded if it appears to actually be able to change a student’s overall GPA.
- Students late to class will be immediately sent to OCD. Students leaving class without my permission and the hall pass will find themselves locked out and will need to get an administrator to let them back in.
- Do not bring food or drinks of any kind (except water), pagers, active cellular phones, or personal stereos into my classroom. If I see or hear any of these, I will take them.
- Students using calculators to play games during class will automatically join my calculator club. Students often ask me why I call it a calculator club, when all that we do is clean desks and counters©.
- Students are expected to be courteous, and to work on the assigned task. Behavior that interferes with other student’s learning or instruction will NOT be tolerated. Students are expected to come to class prepared and

be seated in their desk, working on the warm-up assignment, when the bell rings. Students who need more than a reminder will be assigned detention or will be sent to OCD. Parents will be notified promptly if a student does not respond to these measures, and further action will be taken. Referrals will be given immediately for fighting, foul language, destruction of property, or unsafe lab practices.

## **More about the important topic of safety**

Safe laboratory practices will be taught in class. The following items deserve to be mentioned here:

- 1) Shoes, which enclose the foot, are safer than sandals.
- 2) Eye protection for some experiments is required. We provide goggles.
- 3) Absolutely NO food, drinks, or gum in the lab at ANY time.

Unsafe behavior will result in an immediate referral to the office and if warranted by the seriousness of the offense, permanent removal of the student from the class. It is extremely important that the laboratory be a safe place for all of us to work and learn.

## **my expectations of you**

- Treat every person in this classroom with respect.
  - Follow all laboratory safety rules and class procedures.
  - Treat all lab materials and computers with respect.
  - Work your hardest at everything you do.
  - Come to class prepared to work.
  - Take full responsibility for your own education.
  - Cooperate with your group members and other classmates.
  - Maintain a positive attitude.
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