

AP Physics B 2010-2011

Hello!

I am excited that you have signed up for AP physics. You have committed to a challenging program that I hope you will find rewarding and fun. This course will provide you with a survey of physics comparable to a trigonometry based college physics program. At the end of this course you will possess a solid understanding of the nature of physics along with the analytical and reasoning skills that will help you negotiate your future.

What to expect

This class may very well be the most challenging of your high school career so you will need to be ready to adapt to the demands of the class. Expect about five hours of work outside of class each week. To be successful, students need to be able to monitor their own progress and be willing to get help when they need it. We must move at a brisk pace so you will need to be able to work consistently throughout the year. Here are some general recommendations:

- **Pace yourself** and never allow yourself to get stuck on a problem for more than ten minutes. If you are stuck, take a break. Play with your little brother or dog for a while and then come back to the problem. If you are still stuck after a couple of attempts, ask a friend or me for help.
- **Form a study group** to work with other people. Get a group of 3 to 4 people that you can work with productively. Meet regularly to discuss problems and get help. You will be surprised at how much you will learn by teaching someone else how to solve a problem.
- **Do not be afraid to ask questions.** Rest assured that there are several people in the class that are wondering about the same thing as you are. In this course we value learning so if you have a question, do the brave thing and ask.
- **Keep a positive attitude** and don't get angry. It is very possible that you will face academic challenges that you have never encountered before. You might fail tests. You might study harder only to fail another test. Be patient and know that your efforts are not wasted. The only way to fail is if you allow yourself to get frustrated and quit.
- **Study on a regular basis** and don't cram. It takes time to assimilate the concepts in this course so give yourself time to do so. Cramming for tests might have worked for you in your honors classes, but it probably won't in this one. Allow yourself quality time for the physics.

Summer Assignment

There is a large amount of content in the class so we will need to cover a couple of topics during the summer. We will cover two units. The first is thermal physics which should be a review of chemistry for you. The other is geometric optics which will incorporate your knowledge of geometry. The summer assignment will be available through the Blackboard site on 5/24/10. You will not need the textbook for the summer assignment. Textbooks will be distributed the first week of school.

Blackboard

We will use Blackboard.com to communicate and post assignments outside of class. You will also complete your summer assignment via Blackboard. You have already been enrolled on the site and can access the class by going to fulton.blackboard.com. Log on as soon as you can.

Logging in:

- Go to fulton.blackboard.com.
- Your user name is your Fulton county student id(ex. 1155667788)
- Your initial password is 123456.
- Once you log in for the first time change your password and complete the first task posted.

MasteringPhysics

We will use MasteringPhysics, an online homework and tutoring service, in this class. The program will provide you with guided help on homework and give specific feedback on your understanding. There is a \$15 fee for the course that will be due the first week of the class.

Closing

I am looking forward to working with you next year. I want this class to be one of the most rewarding experiences of your academic career, and if we both work towards that goal I am sure it will be. If you do experience any problems or have any questions, please come see me or email me at maley@fultonschools.org.