

## BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL COURSE EXPECTATIONS 2010-2011

Course Name: Physics

Teacher: Jonathan Stapleton

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(802)864-8597

Call Back Room: E205

### Course Description:

This is an introductory physics course. In this course, we will focus on basic physics concepts and real-life applications. A constant effort will be made to present the material in such a way that you will find what we learn understandable, useful, fun, and/or simply interesting.

### Order of Topics (subject to change):

#### **Quarter 1:**

1. Kinematics (velocity, acceleration...)
2. Newton's Laws
3. Inquiry/Design

#### **Quarter 2:**

1. Momentum and Impulse
2. Projectile Motion
3. Kinetic/Potential Energy
4. Efficiency

#### **Quarter 3:**

1. Machines/Mechanical Advantage
2. Pressure & Buoyancy
3. Thermodynamics (topics related to heat)

#### **Quarter 4:**

1. Rotational Motion
2. Waves (sound and light)
3. Electricity
4. End of Year Project: Rockets

### The science graduation requirements relating to physics are:

- Demonstrate an understanding of and apply the basic principles, concepts and language of the physical sciences
- Understand the historic development and dynamic nature of scientific thought
- Demonstrate the ability to work safely and effectively with laboratory measuring, manipulating, and sensing devices
- Identify and design techniques for solving problems in science or technology

To view the Vermont Science Grade Expectations visit:

[http://www.state.vt.us/educ/new/pdfdoc/pubs/grade\\_expectations/rtf\\_doc\\_files/](http://www.state.vt.us/educ/new/pdfdoc/pubs/grade_expectations/rtf_doc_files/)

Then choose: "science/grade\_9-12.rtf"

### Typical Day and Classroom Routines:

1. Warm-Up. When you arrive, there will often be a question on the board or screen. We will discuss the question when class begins.
2. Establish the agenda for the day. What will we be doing? What assignments are coming up?
3. Review homework (if there is any).
4. Directions or instruction, regarding the day's activity – Teaching.
5. Work time. This may be broken up by instructions and checks for understanding.
6. Clean-up. Return materials; return and push-in chairs; and tidy up tables, counters, and floor.

### Class Rules and Expectations:

1. **Be on time.** For this class, you will be considered tardy if you are not in the room by \_\_\_\_\_. ***If you are tardy, you must get an admit slip from the grade office before being admitted to class.*** The first two tardies will result in warnings. Third and subsequent tardies will result in either call back or a “copying assignment.”
2. **Demonstrate respect for others and their property.**
  - a. Be careful to not disrupt teaching and learning.
  - b. Keep language “G-Rated.” This includes innuendo.
  - c. Do not snoop through other people’s belongings. This includes classroom materials that are unrelated to the day’s work.
  - d. Help clean up and reorganize at the end of class and after activities.
  - e. Take care of school property. When accidents occur, and equipment is broken, tell Mr. Stapleton. Do not waste materials.
3. **Be safe.** Physics class presents laboratory situations not found in other classes. Working with laboratory equipment demands a certain type of behavior in order to work safely in the lab. Failure to follow these safety procedures may result in loss of points and in some cases removal from class.
4. **Follow directions.**
5. **Electronic Devices (cell phones, music players, etc.) should not be used in class.** However, some rare exceptions for appropriate, class-related use may be made. If problems arise with misuse of a device, the device will be temporarily confiscated.
6. **School-wide rules**, including those regarding academic honesty, will be enforced in this classroom. Cheating will result in a zero, an office referral, and parent contact.

### Hall Passes:

- Before you leave the room, ask Mr. Stapleton first. Write your name and destination on the white board. Erase your writing when you return.
- Cafeteria visits are not permitted during this class. You are allowed to bring and eat snacks as long as they do not create a disruption or a mess.

### Typical Consequences for Infractions:

- Verbal reminder/warning
- Call-back or Writing Assignment (actually a *copying* assignment, relating to the particular infraction).
- Removal from class: To hallway, for minor infractions. To grade office.
- Additional behavioral issues may involve Parent/Teacher conferences and then finally a force drop from the class.
- Whatever it takes.

Materials Required for Class: Pencil, 3-Ring Binder with loose leaf paper. [Calculators are recommended, but not required.]

Information on the Web: Much of the material that you will receive in this class will be posted on the web at [www.mrstapleton.com](http://www.mrstapleton.com). If you would like to print another copy of this hand-out, for example, you can find it there. Also check this site for class assignments and notices. Grading information can be found at [www.snapgrades.net](http://www.snapgrades.net).

### Grading:

#### Grading Categories:

- Tests = 50% of grade
- General (labs, quizzes, homework, projects, etc.) = 50% of grade

“Effort” Grading: Many assignments in this class will be intended as practice. Since they are a part of the learning process, and not tests of knowledge, they will *often* be graded on completion, rather than correctness.

Late Work (due to excused absence): Aside from tests and major projects, work that is missed due to an absence is generally excused from grading. Absent students will be given the important work that they missed, and they will be welcome to come to call back for extra help in catching up. In almost all circumstances, *tests and major projects that are missed due to an absence must be made up.*

Late Work (not due to excused absence): Non-excused, late assignments will receive an automatic 30% deduction (beyond the actual grade earned by the quality of work). If there is a legitimate reason why these points should not be deducted, you may discuss it with Mr. Stapleton. When you complete an assignment late, Mr. Stapleton will often have already given out the answers. You will be expected to complete late work without simply copying those answers!

Notebooks: You will be expected to keep all numbered handouts in your 3-ring binder. You will also be expected to bring that binder to class every day. Mr. Stapleton may conduct a notebook check at any time in order to make sure that you still have your handouts.

Extra Help and Call Back: Mr. Stapleton will be in E205 for extra help during call back. If he is not there, he may have temporarily gone upstairs to the science office (3<sup>rd</sup> floor of E Building).

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*(Detach this portion and return to **Mr. Stapleton**)*

Parents and Guardians: Please signify that you have read the course expectations by signing below. If you would like to provide information about your student that you think would be helpful to your student's success in this class, please write me below. The **BHS Open House** will be **Thursday, September 23rd**. I look forward to meeting you and sharing additional information about this course.

Student Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Contact Information:

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Information You Would Like Me To Know About Your Student: