

Physics **Course Information**

I. General

- A. **Teacher:** Jim Baumgaertel - 360-620-9901, jimbaum@procinwarn.com
- B. **Textbook:** *Exploring Creation with Physics* – second edition, by Dr. Jay Wile
- C. **Homework Blog:** <https://writinghome.org/homework-assignments/high-school-physics/>

D. **Course Times and Dates:**

- 1. Tuesday, September 9th to Tuesday, November 25th and Tuesday, January 6th to Tuesday, April 21st
- 2. **Tuesdays** – 9:00 to 11:00 am
- 3. A test will be given every other week. A scientific calculator is required (not a graphing calculator).
- 4. First homework due: 9/16. First test: Monday, 9/22.
- 5. Students should be in their seats at least five minutes prior to class. Please let me know as soon as possible if your student will be missing a class session.

E. **Academic Success**

- 1. Pursue understanding.
- 2. Follow directions.
- 3. Learn from your mistakes.

F. **Course Grade**

- 1. Tests will count for 65%. Lab reports will count 25%. Quizzes will count for 10%. Homework is required to be turned in but will not count in the course grade.
- 2. Grade reports will be emailed to the parents at least every other Friday.
- 3. Homework will be spot checked and not graded in detail. Lab reports will be graded primarily on following directions. Tests will be graded in detail by Mr. B.

4. Homework is the primary means for students to develop the understanding necessary to pass the tests. It is up to the student to benefit from the homework. The grade for lab reports is mainly for following directions and does not measure understanding. The tests are the measure of understanding. Studying graded tests to learn from your mistakes is essential for success in this course.

II. Textbook use

- A. The textbook is the primary tool for learning physics. The student must read and **study** each chapter every week. Carefully think through each example problem and each On Your Own problem. Take notes of facts and vocabulary. Keep a summary sheet of important formulas from your “toolbox” for future review. Study the chapters as you’re doing the homework problems.
- B. The student should spend about **one hour a day** on this course.

III. Homework

- A. The parents supervise homework, including Review Problems, Practice Problems, and Lab Reports.
- B. The **most important** part of this course is that the student must do all the assigned homework every week. It should be stapled and ready to be turned in Tuesdays at the beginning of class.
- C. The parent is responsible for supervising the homework and ensuring that it is done properly and on time. The parent does not need to grade each question. Rather, you should **spot check** that all the required problems are completed according to the instructions in this document.
- D. The student must keep up with the homework even if absent due to sickness, vacation, or other reason. **It is the student’s responsibility to make up work that they missed.**
- E. Please help your student to not get behind in turning in homework.
- F. Please see the applicable homework page on [writinghome.org](https://writinghome.org/homework-assignments/high-school-physics/) or call or email me if there are any questions. <https://writinghome.org/homework-assignments/high-school-physics/>
- G. The student should write the problems on standard-sized, lined paper (see below) and show his/her work. Put name and date at the top. Be legible. For

each problem, re-write the problem. The problem may be summarized. Write out the solving of the problem. **Show your work.** Show your algebra until ready to use the calculator. A scientific calculator should be used for the final calculations. Box the answer.

- H. The student should not leave any problem blank. If necessary, the student should call or email me.

IV. Labs and Lab Reports

- A. Physics labs will be conducted by the students in class, based on Experiments in the textbook.
- B. Follow all safety precautions.
- C. Write up a lab report per the required format and turn it into Mr. B the following Tuesday.

V. Tests

- A. **Mondays** will normally be test day (every other week). Mr. B will email the test to the parents on Sunday evening. If a test is missed due to sickness or other reason, arrangements will be made to make up the test missed.
- B. On Monday, after the student has completed this week's homework, a **parent will proctor the test.**
- C. The student should never be shown the test or have access to a test solutions manual before taking the test or during the test.
- D. The student should write the test problems on standard-sized, lined paper (see below). The student's name should be written at the top of the first sheet of blank paper. The test number should be written at the top, e.g., "Test 1". Write the number of each test question. **Re-write each question** (problems may be summarized). Solve the problem, including following Mr. B's directions. **Show your work. Box the answer.**
- E. Proctoring tests
 - 1. The parent should ensure the integrity of testing by being in the vicinity of the student while taking the test and ensuring that there is no cheating. A scientific calculator should be used.

2. Once the student begins the test it must be completed in two hours.
 3. Normally each test must be, “closed book”, unless Mr B communicates otherwise. Closed book means that the student may not refer to the textbook or any notes. The student should only have a pen or pencil and blank sheets of paper and the test sheet. When authorized, per the home work page, a summary sheet may be used during the test.
 4. Once the test is started parents should not answer questions that help with getting the correct answer or how to do the problem. Parents should only answer questions that have to do with understanding the question. Parents should not explain terms that the student should have already learned.
 5. When the student is finished or two hours have passed, the student should turn the test over to a parent, with the pages in order.
- F. The student should **turn in the completed test** to Mr. B the next day. Once the test is turned into the parents the student should not modify the test in anyway.
- G. Keep all graded tests. The student should **study** past graded tests weekly. The student should carefully read each comment Mr. B writes on a graded test. If there are questions, contact Mr. B. The graded tests are essential tools to learning in this course. **Do not make the same mistake twice!** Learn from your mistakes. **Follow directions.**

VI. Lectures

- A. Mr B will lecture on the chapter of the textbook during a two week period.
- B. The student should have with them the textbook, a scientific calculator, pencil or pen, and paper to be used for taking notes and doing problems.

VII. Supplies for this course

- A. The textbook
- B. Scientific Calculator – not a graphing calculator, not a standard calculator
 1. A standard calculator only does the four basic arithmetic operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

2. A scientific calculator (required for this course) does the arithmetic operations but also does scientific notation and the trigonometric functions (sine, cosine, tangent).
 - C. A pencil or pen (black or blue ink)
 - D. Paper: Standard-size loose leaf white college-ruled lined paper
 1. Size: either 8.5 by 11 inch or 8 by 10.5 inch. Please not smaller.
 2. Homework and tests should be turned in on this type of paper.
 3. Please, no spiral notebook paper, or graph paper, or other colors of paper than white.
 4. Spiral notebooks may be used for taking notes, but not required.
- VIII. Success depends on students, parents, and teacher
- A. Most students are capable of getting A's (90% or above) or B's (80-89%) if they read the text, listen in class, do the homework and study hard.
- IX. Requirements to remain in the course: Maintain at least a 60% average on tests and turn in all assigned homework on time.
- X. Reasons to be dismissed from the course:
- A. Fail three tests in a row (59% or below).
 - B. Average 59% or below for the tests at any time (after the first three tests).
 - C. Being behind in turning in homework (not caught up) for three weeks in a row.
 - D. Cheating.
- XI. Recommendation for parents:
- A. Remember that Writing Home is a tool for you to home school your student.
 - B. Review each graded test.
 - C. Review each homework assignment prior to your student turning it in, to verify its completeness.
 - D. Review each graded homework assignment.
 - E. Monitor the grade reports emailed to you about every two weeks.
- XII. Please help your student learn by not cheating. Students should not simply copy their homework from a solutions manual. Students should not be allowed to see a test or test solutions before they take a test. Students may be dismissed for cheating.