

Physics is defined as the study and understanding of natural phenomena in terms of energy and matter.

What you probably do not realize is that you are completely surrounded by physics. Its explanations are everywhere. It can be as simple as lightning produced in a storm, or the thunder that usually accompanies it, and why the inside of your car is actually a pretty good place to be when that storm happens. It can help explain why that shirt you bought in the store is sometimes a different color when you bring it home. Why is the sky blue and not red or purple? Physics offers explanations for each of these. There is so much to learn and so little time. Actually, with all of the stuff we are going to learn this year, just consider yourself to be embarking on a . . .

GREAT ADVENTURE!

HERE ARE OUR PLANNED DESTINATIONS FOR THE YEAR:

MOTION First, we have to fuel up! The most basic part of physics is a description of basic types of motion. Without a foundation and understanding in speed, velocity, and acceleration, we will not get very far!

VECTORS Before, we really get started we need to pick up a pretty important tool that physicists need to master- vectors. We can't really get to any cool destinations without this tool. Learn how to use it! It is very important.

FORCES Here is really where our trip begins! How are things put into the types of motion we just learned about? Forces and specifically, what situations produce the types of motion we started discussing in the beginning of the semester. Do you realize that if you lost your temper and decided to do something silly like punch a wall- that the wall will punch you back (and actually- the WALL can break your hand)?

IMPULSE AND MOMENTUM The next destination of this trip will be to add another variable to the mix: time. We will discuss the topics of impulse and momentum. How badly you may be injured in a car accident has everything to do with the time it takes for you to stop moving!

WORK AND ENERGY Next stop- energy! I am sure that most of you know something about this topic already! You do realize that the total amount of energy in the universe NEVER CHANGES. So when you go for that morning jog- energy isn't "used up".

Some other areas that will possibly be discussed:

Waves and electrostatics. (When you rub your feet across the floor and shock your friend you are making a small lightning bolt. We may also talk about some of the quantum theories applied to physics.

All of these things apply to your personal lives and you will learn how.

Inquiry processes will be used, cooperative learning will be used and technology will be used!!!

What Do You Need?

- Scientific calculator-I do have a classroom set available, but it will be nice to have your own. You will need to use my calculators on tests and quizzes.
- Binder or folder, paper, writing utensils
- 2 separate notebooks for labs.
- Gluesticks or tape
- Dry erase markers (At least two colors, please stick with basic colors).

Important Information

Online tools...I will be using Google and Remind to disseminate information about tests, quizzes, projects and expectations. Generally, needed class documents can be found on Google Calendar and in your Google Docs. Periodic information might be found on Moodle. The passcode for Moodle is 10340199. We will use turnitin.com to turn work in. The class ID is 10340199 and the password is **science**. I will use remind.com to send out pertinent information to the class. Text **@b7de8** to **81010** to enroll for remind.com.

There is no dedicated textbook that is used. I do have some available if you would like to check one out. Just ask and you shall receive.

GRADING

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Labs | 30% |
| Tests and quizzes | 25% |
| Final Exam | 15% |
| Projects | 15% |
| Responsibility | 15%**use of bathroom, preparedness, homework, & citizenship. Your Class Dojo points will be used to track this. |

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM:

THESE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AND ANY WORK DONE IN THIS MANNER WILL RECEIVE A 0.

Academic honesty includes doing all of your own work and NOT sharing your work with others. If you are caught cheating you will receive a zero for the assignment. Do not ask your friends to jeopardize their grades.

**Grades that are on the border line, can help to be determined by your attendance, missing assignments, attitude, and effort in and out of class etc. Extra-credit information can be found on Google Calendar.

NEED A LITTLE EXTRA HELP?

If you really need some one-on-one attention it would be best to make an appointment with me for before or after school. You are we **Remember you are here to learn and I am here to help you!!!!** Drop in anytime and if I am there and free I will help then.

It seems as though one of the most difficult things to do when learning is to admit when you don't understand (sometimes pride is not a very good thing). There are probably more than a few of you who have little or no experience with this. I am here to help you understand. Please do not be afraid of "not knowing". When you find yourself lost, stop and let me know I just might be able to help.

1. Come in for extra help.
2. Ask questions if you don't understand.
3. Keep up and ask for help when you need it.
4. If you don't understand one thing, take the time to come in and get extra help because one thing leads to bigger things and this creates the "SNOWBALL effect".

For many of you so far, classes have been anything but difficult. Maybe you have not yet learned the meaning of the term work (or at least don't associate it with anything you have ever done at school). This class just might be a place where you learn the meaning of that four-lettered word.

As your teacher, what am I expecting from you?

1. I expect an honest effort on your part. That means coming to class on time, prepared, paying attention in class, attempting all of your homework, etc... I realize there may be times when you are going to struggle and I am not after perfection. I am after your BEST effort!
2. When you are absent handouts can be found in the box in my classroom and often can be found on the class calendar. Notes can be copied from a classmate. You have two times as long as you were gone to make up work you missed from an excused absence . For example, if you were sick for 2 class periods you have 4 class periods to make-up the work; if you need more time than this it is your responsibility to make arrangements with me for more time. It is your responsibility to get your work that you missed and to schedule a make-up time for assessments and labs. If you have missed work because of an unexcused absence you might receive a "0" for that work.
3. Academic honesty includes doing all of your own work and NOT sharing your work with others. If you are caught cheating you might receive a zero for the assignment. Do not ask your friends to jeopardize their grades.

Late Work Policy

Daily homework: If students do not turn in their daily homework on time they will receive a reduced homework grade. These policies will be discussed with students on the first day of school and they can also be found on my homepage.

Other work: I will accept your late work on your time. Late work will be accepted before school or after school. My office hours are kept updated on my website. I will not accept late work during class or during lunch. When you turn your missing work in I will immediately assess it and will often give you verbal feedback. The grade will be entered into Skyward before you leave my classroom.

***I will accept late work up until the last full day of the term.

PASS List

If you are on the PASS List and all of your missing work is turned in you will be allowed to do test corrections to help you master specific items. If you are eligible to complete make-up work this can be done before school or after school, or possibly during class work time.

Contact Information

My name is Meredith Smith and the school phone is 424-1902 EXT. 3412. My email is smithm@belleville.k12.wi.us and email is the BEST way to contact me.
I'M HOPING WE WILL HAVE A GREAT SEMESTER.