

College Physics Fall 2016

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Dear Students and Parents,

September 2016

Welcome to one of the more real world relevant and academically challenging courses offered at Hannibal High School. ALL students enrolled are taking this course for Cayuga Community College's PHY103 and PHY104 (8 sem hrs) credit. Fundamental math skills are required for success in this course: algebra, basic trig, systems of equations, scientific notation, and logical problem solving. Successful completion of geometry is required for course enrollment. A scientific calculator is required for use in class, lab, and homework daily. Students will use math as a tool for solving real world problems DAILY. As with any math course or athletic sport or in the performing arts, practice is the key for developing skills; the same is true for physics.

Students will complete more than 25 labs over the course of the two semesters. Each lab is REQUIRED to be successfully completed (70% or better) to be able to pass the course. Lab reports will be written in a formal style and typically require substantial time and effort to complete well. A specific format must be adhered to in order to earn passing credit for any lab.

There is NO DOUBT that this course is more demanding than almost any other course offered at Hannibal HS. **I strongly encourage students to take this opportunity to learn how to truly study, manage time, and to figure out how they learn best BEFORE they are in their freshman year of college.** This class typically challenges most students at one time or another during the year. I am available for extra help after school, during my planning, or my lunch. I encourage students to ask for assistance right away due to the concept-building nature of the course. Student success depends upon putting **honest effort** into trying to learn the material, asking questions, and PRACTICING problem solving by completing homework assignments.

Grades will be determined by quiz and test performance, lab report grades, projects, a portion of homework assignments collected, and final exam scores. Typically labs count as 30% to 35% of any marking period grade, with HW, projects, and quiz/tests making up the remaining 65% to 70% percent. Every student who meets the NYS Lab Requirement will also complete the NYS Regents Physics exam in June 2017 where their score will be used as a major exam for marking period 4. The average of the two college final exam scores (PHY 103 in January and PHY 104 in June) will contribute 20% of the final overall HHS report card grade for physics. The CCC transcript grade may be different as each course (PHY103 and PHY104) will be calculated using the CCC guidelines and assigned a letter grade.

A hardcopy of a semi-weekly homework planner is provided so that students with busy schedules can better manage their time and obligations. The planner will include objectives, assignments, and due dates. Quizzes may be taken multiple times during a marking period until the student achieves mastery.

Questions or concerns can be directed to me by phone, email, or in person. Phone: 564-8130 ext 4129 or email: **cburch@hannibalcsd.org** or **cburch129@gmail.com** I am eager to work with students and parents to raise student achievement. Keep in mind, like being successful in sports, music, or dance, physics skills develop as a result of considerable practice. I am regularly available for additional support during the school day and afterschool. I encourage students to monitor their own progress based on quiz mastery of learning objectives. In twenty-one years of teaching physics, it is truly **only** the "unpracticed" and uninvested students who fail: those who do not turn in lab reports by their due dates, do little or no homework, do not study for exams, and/or fail to ask for extra help when they don't understand concepts.



Carol Burch
National Board Certified physics teacher