

WELCOME to ASTRONOMY!

It's great to have you in class! I'm sure we'll have a great year together! Here's some information to help you feel at home in physics class.

Course Description & Objectives

This course is a one-semester course designed to be an introductory study of astronomy. During the course, extensive use is made of the planetarium facility. Topics covered include the stars, sun, moon, and planets as well as the motions of these bodies as viewed from the earth. The composition and "life histories" of these bodies and others as well as of the universe as a whole is also studied. The student is responsible for having a small flashlight.

Prerequisites: Completed one year of Geometry with a C or better.

Student Supplies

Students need to have and bring to class every day...

- ☆ notes
- ☆ current work for the class
- ☆ a working flashlight with red cellophane over the dome



Grading Policy

The course grade consists of a weighted calculation based on the following formula:

50% Tests & Quizzes
50% Projects, homework, classwork, and labs ("Student Products")
100% The Grade You've Earned! ☺

The grading scale to convert percentages to letter grades created by the Board of Education and stated in your *Student Planner* will determine your letter grade. Your semester grade will also follow the formula stated in your *Student Planner*. There will be no extra credit opportunities, so make your work count!

Tests & Quizzes



Procedures and policies for tests and quizzes are as follows:

1. All tests are point-based, and the point values will be proportional to the amount of material covered on the test.
2. During tests, expect to be spaced out throughout the room...well, hopefully not "spaced out"...you know what I mean. ☺
3. Any disruptive behavior during tests will result in points being automatically deducted from your test grade. A first offense will result in a -5% (half-letter grade) consequence, a second offense will result in an additional -10% consequence. A third offense will result in loss of credit on the test and a phone call home. ☹
4. Any cheating on a test will result in an automatic zero on the test as well as in disciplinary action. Boo! ☹☹☹☹
5. If you have more than two tests on a given day when I have a test scheduled for you, you may postpone by one day taking my test if you provide written verification, signed and dated by your other teachers, indicating that you have a test in those teachers' classes on the day in question.



IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF TEST MATERIAL, PLEASE SET UP A TUTORING APPOINTMENT WITH ME **BEFORE** THE DAY OF A TEST.

Make-Up Work

There are two types of make-up work. One consists of playing with make-up, which your teacher enjoys greatly. The other consists of you making up physics work, labs, and tests that you have missed due to absence. Here's the skinny on that kind of make-up work:

1. You will have as many days as you were consecutively absent to make up homework, tests, and quizzes missed during that absence. This will apply to any excused or unexcused with credit absence. Unexcused absences do not qualify for make up work, and you will receive a zero for any work associated with those absences. This is school policy.
2. If it is the end of a grading period, your grade will result in an incomplete until your work is completed or the number of days you have to make up the work has passed. Again, this applies to any non-unexcused absence.
3. In the event that you have more than ten consecutive non-excused absences at the end of a grading period, you will have a maximum of ten days to complete make-up work. Once again, this applies to any non-unexcused absence. This is also school policy. *continued on next page*



Absence Cards: When return from an absence, you will receive an absence card from me for each assignment you've missed. The due date for that assignment will be on the card. You **MUST** staple your absence card to each assignment and turn it in before the due date in order to receive full credit on that assignment. Always ask me for an absence card on the first day you return back from an absence.

Late Work: I consider work not turned in by the due date as late. Here are my policies:

1. You may make up late homework assignments for half credit.
2. If you make up a test or quiz that you missed due to an absence **AFTER** the due date on the absence card, you will receive a 10% penalty on your test grade.

Classroom Expectations & Responsibilities

I expect my très cool students to...

1. Be honest & responsible.
2. Write physics assignments in your *Student Planner*.
3. Meet classroom, laboratory, and school responsibilities at all times.

Your responsibilities are...

- ☆ **Be in your assigned seat ready to work with your materials as soon as the period starts.**

Consequences: Tardy, loss of credit on assignments for which you have no materials

- ☆ **Follow the verbal and written instructions of the teacher.**

Consequences: Loss of credit on assignments, teacher or office detentions, parent calls, office referrals

- ☆ **Stay on the topic.**

Consequences: Loss of credit on assignments, teacher or office detentions, parent calls, office referrals

- ☆ **Be responsible for your own work and learning.**

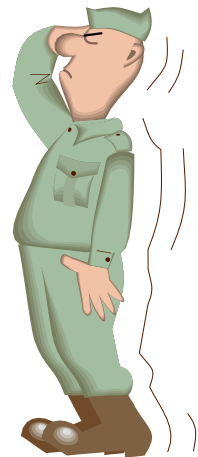
Consequences: Loss of credit on assignments, teacher or office detentions, parent calls, office referrals

- ☆ **Transition quickly.**

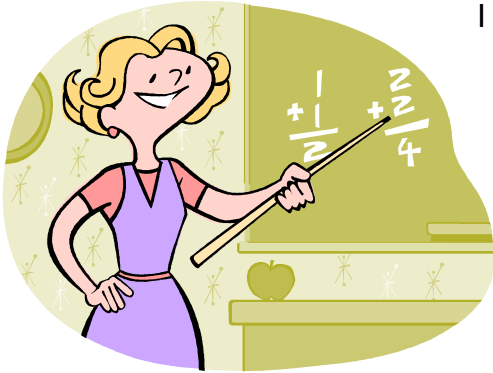
Consequences: Loss of credit on assignments, teacher or office detentions, parent calls, office referrals

- ☆ **Treat yourselves, others, and property with respect**

Consequences: Teacher or office detentions, parent calls, office referrals



Teacher Responsibilities



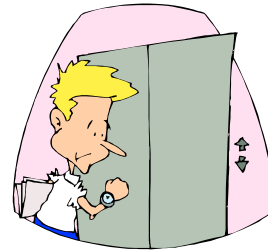
I will...

- ☆ Treat students fairly with respect and care.
- ☆ Be prepared with materials in order to provide students with a challenging, engaging environment.
- ☆ Provide students with an orderly classroom consistent with school standards.
- ☆ Strengthen my teaching abilities through continuing education.

Policy on Tardiness

As per school policy, a second or third tardy results in one office detention. The fourth tardy and beyond result in office referrals. If the student handbook states a different policy, I will follow that policy.

Hall Pass Policy

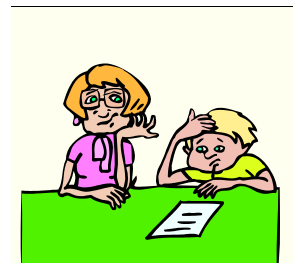


You may only use the hall pass for visits to the restroom, drinking fountain, or your locker. Policies and procedures are as follows:

1. You get two emergency hall passes per quarter. **YOU MUST SIGN OUT** on the sign-out sheet by the yellow file cabinet. Failure to fill out the form completely will result in loss of privileges.
2. I expect you to return to class within five minutes unless you're super ill and about to go home after your visit to the bathroom.
3. I expect you to go straight to the bathroom, drinking fountain, and/or your locker and then *come straight back*. 🤪
4. Any abuse of this privilege will result in its revocation.

Academic Help

My job and part of my mission is to do all I can to help you achieve success in physics. Therefore please, please, **please** feel free to see me to schedule extra help **at any time** during the year. Yay! 😊



Parent-Teacher Contact

I strongly believe that students do best when parents and teachers team together in their interest. Therefore I welcome parents to contact me at any time with questions, comments, concerns, and suggestions via a Gradebook Wizard message or by email (Michelle.Burgess@avonlakecityschools.org). Gradebook Wizard and email are the best, most efficient ways to reach me, as opportunities to make private phone calls are less frequent than opportunities to send emails. However, you may reach me by calling the High School (440-933-6290 x 1262.)

Disclaimer: This classroom plan is not meant to be all encompassing. As the year progresses, there may be a need for additional assignments or modifications to expectations.

Avon Lake High School Science Department Philosophy

We, the science staff of Avon Lake High School, believe that science education should:

- ☆ Develop a spirit of inquiry.
- ☆ Develop the ability to observe and think independently, analytically, creatively, and critically in problem solving.
- ☆ Cultivate the appreciation of science and its accomplishments.
- ☆ Develop the ability to read, understand, and interpret science vocabulary and concepts.
- ☆ Foster an understanding of science as an open-ended intellectual activity.
- ☆ Develop an understanding of science and technology with our economic and social life.
- ☆ Develop opportunities in the curriculum for a wide range of interests and abilities.
- ☆ Prepare students to be useful, productive, and responsible members of society.
- ☆ Prepare students for further study in science or potential careers in science.

Signature Sheet

We, the undersigned, have read and understand the attached classroom management plan for Mrs. Burgess' astronomy class.

Student Printed Name

Date

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date