

Welcome to *Accelerated Physics!*



Physics is concerned with how and why things work or behave the way they do. The late Nobel-Prize-winning American physicist Richard Feynman compared physics to watching the world play a giant chess game without knowing the rules of chess. “If we watch long enough, we may eventually catch on to a few of the rules. *The rules of the game* are what we mean by *fundamental physics*. . . . If we know the rules, we consider that we understand the world.”

Grades: Grades will be a total accumulation of points from the following: tests, quizzes, labs, and homework problem sets.

- **Tests:** We will have one at the end of each unit. Each test will be worth approximately 100 points and will be announced at least one week in advance. All tests and quizzes will be timed. Extra time will not be given unless an exception has been made for the student.
- **Quizzes:** These will be given announced, unannounced or hinted, and will cover the material being immediately studied. Point values will range from 10-50 points.
- **Lab Activities:** Depending on the topic, detail, and task, laboratory experiences will vary from simple collection of data, to more detailed write-ups. Typically, labs will be worth 10 to 30 points.
- **Homework:** Homework will consist of a combination of instructor-written problem sets and worksheets. These assignments will be graded for correctness and/or completeness.

Grading Scale:

94%-100%	A	73%-76%	C
90%-93%	A-	70%-72%	C-
87%-89%	B+	67%-69%	D+
83%-86%	B	63%-66%	D
80%-82%	B-	60%-62%	D-
77%-79%	C+	Below 59%	F

(regular rules of rounding apply)

Late Work: All assignments not submitted on the correct due date will be considered late, and subject to a deduction of points. All assignments are due at the moment you are asked to hand them in. Homework turned in after this time will be treated as if it was submitted a full day late. Late work will be accepted for half-credit up until that unit’s test.

Absences: You are allowed twice the number of days of an **excused** absence to make up your work. If a student is absent on the day of a test, the test is to be made-up on **THE DAY** the student returns. Any exceptions to this must be discussed with me first.

Conduct and Safety: Your behavior in class and lab should be exemplary, as would be expected of upper-class men and women. In physics we deal with potentially dangerous equipment and voltage. If I deem that you are not handling these things properly you will be removed from the lab activity and will receive a zero on the lab at hand. Any special safety concerns will be discussed before we begin an activity.

Tools of the Trade: There are things that we will use often enough that you will want them with you every day. Please come to class prepared with:

- A folder and notebook or three-ring binder
- Composition Lab Book with **Graph Paper**
- Pencils
- A *good* eraser
- Scientific (or graphing) calculator
- (Paper)
- (Metric ruler)
- (Protractor)
- (Compass)

Cheating:

If caught participating in any type of cheating, the consequences will be forfeiture of a grade (a zero) on the task at hand, including tests and exams. A second instance of cheating will result in a referral to your administrator for academic misconduct.

Cell Phones and iPods: Cell phones are not to be used in this classroom. I don't want to see, hear, or suspect the use of any cell phones. iPods/MP3 Players will only be allowed if you are working independently on class/homework. Volume is to be kept at a reasonable level so as not to disrupt the rest of the class. If you are listening to music during the lesson or a lab/activity, you will be asked to put it away as a warning. If it happens again, further action will be taken.

Success!: I hope that you will find this class exciting and challenging. I am here to help you succeed and will be available for questions or comments outside of class. Be strategic in your approach to getting help:

- Organize a study group- you are encouraged to work together on challenging assignments. (Notice the word is work, not copy. Each student is responsible for doing the work and knowing the material).
- Look for other resources (online, textbooks, etc.)
- Schedule** a time with me. It can be before/after school or during seminar, whichever works best for you.

Any questions or concerns can be e-mailed to me at katlyn.witt@fraserk12.org

Please sign and return.

Student Name: _____

Block: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

E-mail address: _____