



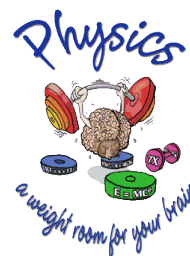
# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Physics

## Syllabus

Mr. Webber

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[www.Physics-is-Phun.org/home](http://www.Physics-is-Phun.org/home)



### Course Description

You can't play a game if you don't know the rules, and the more you know the rules the more you enjoy the game. Physics is the study of nature's "rules" – the rules and laws governing the universe in which you are a part. So, to learn physics is to learn about ourselves and the arena of physical and natural laws that govern all aspects of our lives, from the atoms within our cells to the motions of galaxies and the energies in distant quasars!

This course-examines physics primarily in a qualitative, conceptual way, focusing on ideas and concepts before considering any mathematical interpretations. There will be some basic calculations with each topic, as understanding the theories and then putting them into practice is the key to understanding.



Remember: "Physics is phun!"

### Cell Phone Policy

It is St. Johns Classical Academy's policy that cell phones are to be turned off and out-of-sight during the school day (including lunch) and in the building before and after school. Earbuds may only be worn before and after school, outside of the building, with one only one ear covered. This is for your safety and for the safety of others.

### Major Units of Study

**Semester 1:** The Nature of Science; Motion; Forces; Work, Power, and Energy; Density and Buoyancy

**Semester 2:** Mechanical Waves and Sound; Electricity and Magnetism; the Electromagnetic Spectrum

### Materials

**Textbook:** "Conceptual Physics" by Hewitt, Paul. Pearson Publishing, Boston. ISBN: 978-0-13-364750-1.  
A class set is available.

**Student Supply Information:** Paper and binder (black), pencil (mechanical serves best), calculator (scientific)

### Grading

Participation: 10%      Formative Assessments: 20%      Lab/Projects: 20%      Summative Assessments: 50%

For a formative assessment, each question/problem is worth 10 points. All work must be shown. In general, the following rubric is used:

- Solution is completely wrong, but an attempt was made with work shown: 2-4 points
- The physics used is correct but with a math error: 8 points
- Answer provided with no work (correct): 5 points
- Answer provided with no work (incorrect): 0 points
- Question or problem left blank: 0 points

Summative assessments (quizzes and tests) are often a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and problems, worth 1-2 points each.

In following with St. Johns Classical Academy's guidelines, grades will be assigned as follows:

A: 100-90      B: 89-80      C: 79-70      D: 69-60      F: 59-50

## Attendance and Tardies

- As with any educational endeavor, attendance, participation, and involvement are essential to the learning process. Your comprehension and understanding depends on you being here.
- You are expected to be in your seat and ready to begin when the bell rings. If not, you will be marked absent. Three absences will result in disciplinary action.

## Late and Missed Work

- Work is expected to be turned in on the due date. You will have class time to work on formative assessments, and they are often due at the beginning of class the following day. Late work will be reduced by 10% of the grade earned for every day it is late. No work will be accepted after a unit test and will result in a 0 in the gradebook.
- If you are absent, it is your responsibility to reach out to either the instructor or a colleague for any missed notes or assignments.
- If you miss a laboratory exercise with an excused absence, you may be exempted from the work (to be determined by the instructor).
- The Student Handbook outlines the policies regarding excused absences and make-up work. Communication and transparency with me are very important.
- If you have an excused absence and need to make up a test or quiz, it is by appointment only outside of class.

## Bathroom Passes

- Use the bathroom before coming to class.
- To be excused, I must sign your planner.
- When leaving class, you must leave your cell phone with the instructor.

## Food and Drink

- In accordance with Florida Law, no food, gum, or drink is allowed in a lab room.
- Any water bottles or other containers must remain closed at all times.

## General Classroom Guidelines

- We practice and expect respect at all times – to our teacher, our classmates, and ourselves.
- We come to class prepared and excited to learn.
- We appreciate the value of education.
- We work to maintain a positive learning environment.
- We strive to do our best.
- We believe in academic integrity.
- We will keep our classroom and supplies neat.

## General Classroom Procedures

- We arrive to class on time, enter in a respectful way, and begin any bell work.
- We raise our hands to be recognized.
- We do not leave our seats unless given permission.
- We do not leave our trash on the floor. Trash is to be thrown out at the end of class.
- We do not eat, drink, or chew gum in this classroom.
- No cell phones or tablets!

## General Classroom Policies

- Work is to be turned in on the due date. Late work is subject to a 50% penalty.
- No work will be accepted after the unit test.
- **Any act of cheating results in a grade of 0 and an automatic referral. No exceptions.**
- Do not arrive late for class.
- Behavior that is not compliant with the student handbook will be addressed by the procedures outlined in the handbook.

## Acknowledgements

Please read and fill out this acknowledgement page and return to Mr. Webber.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the syllabus for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Name of Student  
Conceptual Physics. I understand Mr. Webber's Guidelines, Procedures, and Policies and the expectations of me in this class. I also understand the discipline and academic consequences for not living up to those expectations. I recognize that the science of physics is demanding and rigorous and that it will require discipline, planning, and studying on my part.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

As the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the above named student, I/we also understand the Guidelines, Procedures, and Policies of Mr. Webber's class. In addition, I/we understand the academic demands of the course and will provide support to our student, Mr. Webber, and the class as a whole.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date