



## IB Physics (SL)

A308

Mr. Morrison

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Welcome to IB physics. You have chosen to take an exciting and challenging course. Physics is an extremely rewarding area of study which opens up incredible opportunities for post-secondary study. Curriculum link <https://ibphysics.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/ib-physics-syllabus.pdf>

In order to be successful in physics a diligent and consistent effort is imperative. You will not succeed if you are absent or fall behind. Physics has a steep learning curve, and you will be challenged to always think “outside the box” and apply your knowledge to new situations. There is no rote-learning in physics! You must learn to *think....really think* about every problem and situation. Common sense and the ability to think about a concept will be your most important assets upon entering the course.

Very few students will find IB physics easy – please don’t assume that you will be one of them. You are meant to struggle and to break down previous misconceptions you may have. Nearly all problems will be multi-step, requiring a clear process and plan of attack. You will get frustrated, you will struggle to understand – this is normal! Frustration means you are getting smarter! If you need extra help during lunchtime, you can find me in my room or A304.

I encourage you to see physics both inside and outside the classroom. Frequently try to explain something you learned to a friend or family member or classmate. Utilize your peers as a support system. Discussing physics is the best way to understand physics.

In order to be successful:

- attend every single class, arrive prepared, and stay organized
- truly engage in the lesson – keep your brain alert and ask questions
- do all assigned homework, when it is assigned!
- study (a **lot**... and then some more, and then even more) for topic and final exams.

In IB, final marks at the end of year 2 are determined based on:

IB final.....80%

Internal Assessment.....20%

Classroom based marks will be **based** upon a similar scale (and posted on Brightspace gradebook):

Tests and Unit Exams .....80%

Lab Work and Assignments.....20%

Your classroom based mark will determine your predicted grade that is sent to universities and acts as your interim grades during years 1 and 2. Do not be alarmed at the holistic nature of this grading system. There will not be a gradebook with dozens of tasks; rather you will be assessed on a daily basis on your progress, understanding, practical demonstrations, and work ethic, along with a select number of critical tests and labs as mentioned above. You will be given one predicted grade for each unit which is not cumulative.

Welcome, and good luck!