

# Welcome to Physics!!!

## Coach Swannack's Syllabus

Room: D145

Email: [craig.swannack@dsisdtx.us](mailto:craig.swannack@dsisdtx.us)

Website: <http://swannackphysics.weebly.com/>

As a physics student, you have the opportunity to learn about the physical world that surrounds you. Physics is about how **energy** and **forces** interact with **matter** - from tiny atoms to huge black holes and quasars! Physics is currently at the forefront of many of our biggest global crises, from climate change to the threat of nuclear warfare. Physics can also be applied to many career fields because it helps develop strong logic skills.

### I. Materials

- a. **Composition notebook (wide ruled)**
- b. **Scientific calculator (must have square root & sin, cos, tan)**
- c. **Pencil**
- d. **Optional: protractor, glue stick, graph paper**

### II. Homework & Formative Assignments (30% of your grade)

### III. Projects & Summative Assignments (70% of your grade)

Almost every grading period you will have...

- 1 test that includes multiple choice & free response
- 1 project... generally something that you have to build or create
- 2 labs which are weighted as "half a summative" each
  - this means they are weighted less than a project or test, but more than a formative assignment

**Tests must be completed in class at the time that they are given**, unless an accommodation is on-record at Dripping Springs High School. If you are absent the day of a test, you need to allocate 40 minutes of tutorial time. You will not be allowed to re-visit a test you have already started. If you were absent the day the class reviewed, you will be given the option to take the test with the rest of the class or in tutorials.

### IV. Tutorials

Tutorials are everyday before school starting at 8:15 am. After school tutorials are available upon request.

### V. Late Work Policy

Late labs and assignments will be accepted with the **maximum possible score of a 70**. This is better than a zero. Late work is not accepted after the grading period has ended.

## VI. Absences Due to Athletics, Illness, Etc.

If you are absent, see me and my website for missing work. You can even email me and I will respond! For every excused absence, you have an equal number of days to make up the work following your first day of return to the class. This is the policy of Dripping Springs High School. Please write “Absent” at the top of any turned in work.

## VII. Academic Integrity

Cheating damages your learning and your character. Academic dishonesty includes things such as copying someone else’s homework and confusing “partner work” with “you do it first – then I’ll write down what you have.” If I observe this behavior, both people will get **zeros**, as per DSHS Student Handbook. Intellectual growth can only occur if you put forth individual effort.

**Absent during a lab??** The best thing to do is to conduct the lab during tutorials. Allow 30 minutes. If the lab equipment is unavailable, I will talk you through the lab and give you data to draw your own conclusions. Do not copy a friend’s lab as you will receive a zero because of academic integrity.

## VIII. Lab and Project Safety

All students are expected to follow all lab safety rules at all times. If any student behaves in such a way the instructor deems unsafe, the student shall be removed from the lab area and receive a zero for the assignment. They may appeal for an alternate assignment to replace their zero at a later date.

Some Physics projects might benefit from, but do not necessarily require the use of power tools and materials that could be dangerous if handled improperly. These might include a drill, saw, screw driver, hammer, pvc cutters, springs, lasers, wire strippers, batteries, and a hot glue gun. It is recommended that Physics projects done at home are done so under adult supervision.

## IX. Personal Electronics

- All phones, iPods, etc. will be put away for the duration of the period, every day, with few exceptions. When you are allowed to get your phone out, realize that this is a privilege that is earned. Don’t abuse it.
- Laptops and tablets are acceptable, assuming they are being used for something productive and on topic.

You may not use electronics/headphones when...

- You are in a lab activity or group discussion
- We are taking notes
- We are watching a video as a class

If playing Pokemon or watching videos on your tablet becomes an issue, we will chat.

X. Classroom Expectations

**Respect the teacher.**

Behave professionally. No one wants to help a rude person.

**Respect your classmates.**

Everyone is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind.

**Respect the classroom.**

Materials are not cheap. Janitors are tired of erasing your drawings.

**Respect yourself.**

Eat breakfast. Have a positive attitude. Don't do drugs.

XI. Discipline Procedures

1st offense - student-teacher conference

2nd offense - parent-teacher contact and discussion

3rd offense - referral to the administration with parent notification

XII. Non-discrimination Clause

Dripping Springs High School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability in its employment, practices, activities, and programs.

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I understand what is expected of me.

**Printed Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

I, the parent (guardian), have reviewed the enclosed overview with my son/daughter, and fully understand what is required in order to pass Physics.

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

If there is anything I need to know about your child, please write a short note here: