

# JJHS Regents Physics [2024-2025] S641 + S641L (Full Year) 1 credit Rank Weight 1.00



Welcome to a phantastic year of physics!

Instructor: Mr. Amodio  
Room 271  
[james.amodio@wcsdny.org](mailto:james.amodio@wcsdny.org)

\*\*\* Mr. Amodio has also recently received a personal voicemail box at x51316. He cannot answer this extension directly, nor can he check his messages anywhere other than from a phone on campus, so it is strongly advised that you email him instead.\*\*\*

## PREREQUISITES:

- *Completion of a Regents level science course with a final average of 75 or higher*
- *Completion of Regents Geometry with a final average of 75 or higher*
- *A score of 75 or higher on a previous Mathematics Regents Examination*
- *Successful completion of or concurrent enrollment in Algebra II Regents*

The **goals** of this course are to:

- 1) Introduce you to the concepts, skills and ways of understanding the world that underlie the branch of science known as “Physics”.
- 2) Enable you to relate physical principles to the world around you.
- 3) Encourage you to ask questions.
- 4) Get you thinking like a physicist.
- 5) Have you leaving the class thinking “Gee, Physics is, like, really cool and awesome! Einstein is my hero,” as opposed to “Physics is impossible. Ughhh.”
- 6) **PREPARE YOU TO PERFORM WELL ON THE NYS REGENTS EXAMINATION IN PHYSICS**

## TOPICS COVERED:

Measurement  
Kinematics (including circular motion)  
Statics and Dynamics  
Gravity and Planetary Motion  
Momentum  
Conservation of Mechanical Energy  
Electrostatics  
Current Electricity  
DC Circuits  
Magnetism  
Wave Mechanics  
Sound  
Optics  
Modern Physics

Materials you will need with you in class:

- 1) A copy of **Reference Tables for Physical Setting/PHYSICS, 2006 Edition**. You are expected to have this out on your desk everyday, and with you when you do homework. (Here is a [LINK](#) to the digital version of it)
- 2) **Notes:** You will need a place to keep and organize your notes, handouts and homework. A 3-ring binder is strongly suggested.
- 3) **Calculator:** A graphing calculator is required. There will be loaners for class use, while students can download an app that emulates as TI-84 for HW. Link is in Google Classroom
- 4) **Pens, pencils, and erasers**
- 5) **A desire to learn, a willingness to practice.**

## Physics Classroom Policy

**Safety First:**

You have the right to a safe learning environment. Classroom participants are expected to observe all posted safety regulations and procedures, and to follow all safety instructions provided by the teacher. Anyone unable to comply with these procedures will be removed from class.

### **Attendance:**

Students are expected to attend every class period. Accommodations will be made for any excused absences incurred by a student. If you know you will be missing a class in advance, please see me **before** your absence so that appropriate arrangements can be made. For unplanned absences, please see me **as soon as you return to school**. Unfortunately, unexcused absences cannot be accommodated.

\*\*\*If you are absent on a day that an assessment is given, I reserve the right to give you a different make-up assessment *equal or greater in difficulty*.\*\*\*

### **Classroom Environment:**

Effective learning in physics requires an environment where students feel safe hazarding guesses, offering their thoughts, and asking questions. To facilitate a climate of safety such as this requires that respect be shown for all persons (and their ideas/thoughts/questions), be they student, teacher or guest. Profane or abusive language will not be permitted at any time.

### **Property**

As we share our classroom with others, please show respect for all property, regardless of the owner. ALL lab equipment, rulers, masking tape, and other supplies are to be returned to their proper locations before you leave the classroom; students will not be dismissed from class until the room is returned to its initial state of cleanliness.

### **Preparedness:**

Students are expected to come to class each day on-time and prepared for that day's lesson. Items you will want to bring with you can be found on page 1 of this document.

### **Participation:**

Physics instruction works best when all students are actively involved. Make sure you get the most out of class - and help others do the same - by contributing to class activities and discussions. Approximately 10% of your quarterly grade will be based on your classroom preparedness, participation, your willingness to get involved in classroom discussions and your ability to work well with others.

## Physics Lab Policy

### The Laboratory:

One of the most important components in any physics course is the part where you get your hands dirty - the lab experiments. The labs we perform are crucial to your understanding of the material we cover, and so for this reason, each student **must** complete all lab experiments we perform in class - even if the student was absent the day the lab was performed.

District Lab Policy Regarding Regents Science Lab Courses:

**"All students in a Regents science course must complete the laboratory requirement of 1200 minutes (20 hours) of satisfactory lab work prior to entry into the Science Regents Exam. A student not in compliance with the lab requirement will not receive a passing grade for the course and will be barred from the Regents exam."**

## Homework Policy

### Assignments:

Each assignment handed out in this course has been painstakingly hand-crafted (by myself, or others) and designed to help students succeed in this physics course. You should therefore make every attempt to complete each assignment in its entirety, and seek assistance when you find the going difficult. It is important, however, that the work you submit be your own. While discussing concepts, ways of solving problems or lab results with a classmate is to be encouraged, no copying of assignments is to be tolerated. Copying means taking someone else's work and presenting it as your own (either from a classmate, a printed text, or Internet resource). If one assignment is found to have been copied from another, both assignments -

regardless of which was the original, and which was the copy - will receive grades of zero, either for the entire assignment, or a portion of that assignment.

### **Lateness:**

Students will be given ample time to complete all written assignments, lab reports and quarterly projects. If you anticipate difficulty in meeting a deadline, please see me in a timely manner prior to the deadline. Assignments are due at the beginning of class; assignments not handed in at the beginning of class are considered to be late. The maximum score on an assignment will be reduced by 10% for every day that it is late, down to a maximum of 50% of the original value of the assignment. Assignments cannot be accepted after the end of a marking period.

### **Absences:**

Students are responsible for any material they miss while absent from class. Upon your return to school, you should make every attempt to borrow notes from a classmate and review what material was missed.

Occasionally, absences will coincide with quizzes, tests or days that assignments are due in class. If a student misses a quiz or test, and no new material or review was covered during their absence, they will be expected to take the quiz or test the day of their return to school, most likely at Test Table. Assignments that were due during an absence are expected to be handed in the day you return.

### **Assistance:**

Not exactly sure what the heck Mr. Amodio was talking about last class? Having trouble with an assignment? Missed a class and the make-up notes don't help? I am always willing to make time to work with students on coursework, from basic understandings to homework to reviewing for tests. Please feel free to come visit after school, or speak to me so that we can schedule some time (before, during, or after the school day) to discuss whatever physics- or science-related issues you'd like.

## **Grading Policy**

Quarterly grades in this course will be determined approximately as follows:

60% Assessments

15% Labwork  
10% Class Participation  
15% Assignments (includes “projects”)

\*\*\*Although Assignments may be posted and collected via Google Classroom, do not mistake the point value in Classroom for how much the assignment is worth towards the quarter grade--they are subject to change.\*\*\*

## ONLINE ELEMENTS TO THE COURSE:

We make a concerted effort to use any and all technological tools to help in Physics Instruction. Assignments will be posted on Google Classroom as much as possible, especially if there is an interactive element to them. Watching videos on YouTube using EdPuzzle may be a common assignment, as well as taking notes on it as if it were class. Various other test prep websites and online instructional aids will be used, and there is an expectation that students will visit these sites and do the work there that is requested. If Internet access is a problem, please see me. We will use sites like CK-12, Castle Learning, and PhET.

## DISTRICT POLICY ON CHEATING:

“The District recognizes all policies and procedures required by NYSED for instances of cheating on all New York State Assessments. For class assigned work or local assessments **a grade of zero** may be given to any student who gives or receives information, including electronically, on any form of a test, quiz, homework, assignment or lab.”

## DISTRICT POLICY ON USE OF AI:

“The use of AI for the sole purpose fulfilling class assigned work or assessments is strictly prohibited. Any person found to be using AI to generate responses to class assignments or assessments, with the goal of increasing that grade shall take the penalty of cheating. A student may appeal the grade to the Principal and/or Building Administrator. In addition to the range of possible disciplines listed in the Disciplinary Measures table of this code of conduct, penalties for cheating will be at the discretion of the Building Administrator and the Classroom Teacher.”

## DISTRICT POLICY ON CELL PHONES:

It is the policy of the Wappingers Central School District that students in grades 9-12 are allowed to carry smart devices during school hours and on school vehicles. However, **during instructional times, students are prohibited from possessing smart devices on**

**their person.** Smart devices must be stored in a school bag or another location determined by the staff member in charge of that location. **Any student who knowingly possesses a smart device on his/her person during an instructional period without permission, will be considered insubordinate and subject to the Student Code of Conduct.** It is the policy of the Wappingers Central School District that the **use of personal cell phones and other electronic devices is not permitted** by students in grades 9-12 at any time in specific common areas; locker rooms, bathrooms, gym class, the auditorium, cafeteria, and classrooms (except for instructional purposes, and only at the discretion of the teacher), and hallways. Our High Schools will utilize lockable phone pouches as a deterrent for students who violate our cell phone expectations. Students who receive a referral for Cell Phone / Electronic Device Violation will, at the discretion of Building Administration, be required to store their device in a pouch for the duration of the school day. The device, locked in the school provided pouch will remain with the student for the day to ensure it is not lost or damaged by the school, and the student will be responsible for having the pouch unlocked prior to dismissal from school. **For safety reasons the use of headphones or earbuds outside of classrooms or designated areas is strictly prohibited.**

## **In Summary: How To Be Successful In Physics Class:**

- Come to class on-time
- Always come to class prepared - with a working calculator, pens, pencils and your notes.
- Always take notes in class, and keep them organized and neat. Review them on a regular basis to ensure understanding.
- Actively participate in class discussions.
- Ask questions as they arise.
- Complete all assignments on-time and to the best of your ability.
- Seek extra help on a regular basis to ensure an understanding of the material.
- Form a study group with some of your classmates.
- Attempt additional problems from Regents Prep review books or websites
- Be part of a team when working on lab experiments. Assist your lab-mates and share common materials with all classmates.
- Volunteer to help distribute materials, put an answer on the board, or assist a peer.
- Put forward your best work.

## **How to Earn a Low Grade in Physics Class:**

- Come to class tardy, or not at all.

- Rarely take notes in class. Leave your notes at home. Never look at them.
- Rarely get involved in class discussions.
- Never raise your hand.
- Don't seek extra help until the day before an important assignment is due.
- Ignore lab safety rules and discussions.
- Attempt Lab experiments without consulting your lab-mates. Hoard lab materials.
- Only put forward the bare minimum amount of work required.

**\*\*\*ALL GUIDELINES AND RULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. IF THERE ARE ANY CHANGES. YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED AHEAD OF TIME, IN WRITING\*\*\***

## Course policy agreement

*After THOROUGHLY reading the syllabus, please fill out the form [HERE](#).*

**\*\*\*PLEASE FILL IT OUT TWICE PER STUDENT--ONCE FOR THE PARENT< ONCE BY THE STUDENT\*\*\***