

**Don't  
Panic!**

## Port St. Lucie High School Science Department Honors Physics I Syllabus

Fall 2006 – Spring 2007  
Instructor: Mr. Jim Riske  
Room 114

Textbook: *Physics: Principles and Problems*  
by Glencoe Science  
Class Website: [www.jimriske.com/pslh](http://www.jimriske.com/pslh)

### Instructional Objectives:

The lessons in this class are geared toward high school students taking Physics in their third or fourth year of secondary education. The course objectives are set by the State of Florida in the Sunshine State Standards and the Florida Course Descriptions. These may be found at [www.firn.edu/doe/menu/sss.htm](http://www.firn.edu/doe/menu/sss.htm).

Specifically, the purpose of this course is to provide opportunities to study the concepts, theories, and laws governing the interaction of matter, energy, and forces, and their applications through exploratory investigations and activities.

For those students who have not passed the science portion of the FCAT, time will also be taken to ensure the student has met all Sunshine State Standards in time for the FCAT. Beginning this year, the Science FCAT counts.

### Supplies Needed:

Scientific Calculator  
1 inch 3-ring binder (2 inch recommended)  
Highlighters  
Notebook Paper (no spiral notebooks)  
Pens (optional)  
Pencils (#2) (all tests will involve scantrons)  
Graph paper (a file will also be available on the  
website to print your own)  
3x5 note cards (optional)  
School ID with Internet clearance  
Notebook dividers (4 – Class work, Class Notes, Homework, Misc.)  
(I recommend Avery A-Z Index Dividers, in case you want  
to create more sections. Avery #11125)

Numerous assignments will involve watching video clips or listening to audio clips over an Internet connection. Students without regular access to a computer with internet access talk to me about other options for obtaining access to the material.

### Classroom Supplies:

Hand Sanitizer  
Box of tissues  
Liquid Soap  
Paper Towels  
Notebook paper for class  
Any Barbie-type dolls willing  
to give their lives in  
the name of science

**You may be asked to bring in additional supplies for lab and/or projects throughout the year. If you are not able to obtain the supplies, please contact me in private. If you are able to purchase extra supplies for those who cannot, all donations are welcome.**

### **Grading and Assessment:**

Grades for each nine week marking period will be computed based upon the following distribution:

Science Fair	10%
Participation, Notebook, and Class Work	20%
Projects & Labs	25%
Homework	20%
Tests and Quizzes	25%

Within each section, grades will be based upon a “total points” system, meaning that different assignments or tests will often have different weight upon your grade.

Letter grades are assigned according to the following scale:

100% - 90%	A
89% - 80%	B
79% - 70%	C
69% - 60%	D
59% - 0%	F

### **Late Work**

Turn your work in on time! Depending upon the assignment and the delay in the turning in the work, late work may be lose from 20%-100%.

The nature of certain assignments requires that I give out the answers soon after grading, so that we can proceed with our work. If you hand in the assignment after I’ve given out the answers, it’s not exactly fair to give you credit for it.

### **Classroom Protocol:**

- Arrive to class on time and with all materials, start work immediately, and stay on task
- If you need to sharpen your pencil, this is the time to do it.
- Your agenda will be posted on the board each day. Be sure to copy this down so you can refer to it if work is not completed.
- Bell-work will be posted either on the board or projector each day. Upon arriving to class, begin this work promptly. Many times this will include an FCAT or study question. All bell-work is to be kept in your notebook all week and will be handed in to be graded each Friday.
- Please be sure to write the FCAT question in your notebook and attempt to work it out. These act as great study tools for the test and my semester exam.
- Once these activities are completed, you will either write notes, listen to lecture, or an activity/lab will be planned. Regardless, please continue to have your notebooks out with writing utensils handy. Almost everything is noteworthy.

- Do not ask me if an assignment in class is for a grade. Let this serve as your answer... You are graded on everything you do in my class, from the moment you walk in the door until the moment you leave, from the first day of school until the last day of school. Your level of success in this class is in your hands.
- I will not give make-up work for those students that were present and chose not to do work in class. Make-up work is for students that were absent.

### **Class Rules**

1. Never speak while the teacher is speaking.
2. Always raise your hand to speak or to leave your seat, and wait for a response before speaking.
3. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.
4. No eating, sleeping, or personal grooming is permitted in class.
5. No touching of other classmates or their belongings is permitted.

### **Passes**

- You are allowed two emergency restroom passes per nine weeks.
- If you require more frequent restroom breaks due to a medical condition, please obtain a doctor's note regarding the condition and submit it to the school nurse. The nurse will give you a permanent pass for the year.
- Passes for guidance, Dean, SRO, or administration office will be delivered to my mailbox for you. If you need to make an appointment for any of the above offices, please do so on your own time. I do not write passes for any of the above areas.
- If you leave something in another classroom, you must wait until class is over to retrieve it.
- No passes will be given during school "freeze times" for any reason.
- If you abuse the two emergency pass privilege, then you will lose all pass privileges for the school year.

### **Current Events**

Each Thursday, a current events article is due. You may use the Ft. Pierce Tribune, Stuart News, Port St. Lucie News, or the Palm Beach Post. You may also use various science related magazine articles or web sites. Each article must be science related. It may be from any discipline (such as physics, medicine, computers, ecology, plant research, etc). Write a summary in paragraph form. Included in your summary must be a two-three sentence opinion. THIS IS NOT A WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY PAPER. You may get a newspaper from me in class, or you can use an article from the internet. The article must be included. You can find articles online at sites, such as [www.pbpost.com](http://www.pbpost.com), [www.tcpalm.com](http://www.tcpalm.com), [www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org), or [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com). It is important to me for you to stay up to date with current issues in the scientific community and form opinions about them.

### **Turning in Assignments:**

All work to be turned in must be turned in prior to the day's lesson in the appropriate drawer. I have established a drawer for each class period, clearly marked on the counter. I have also established folders for each student, for you to pick up graded papers (as well as make-up work). Place graded papers in your notebook in chronological order.

Make sure that your name is on every paper you hand in or work on. If your name is not on it, it will go into the trash can. Your heading should contain your first and last name, the date and the assignment detail. Also include your class period. Example:

Jane Doe  
8/1/05  
Section Review, Pg. 514, 1-4  
Period 4

### **Tardy Policy:**

If you are tardy, you will be sent to the tardy tank. If you are sent to class by someone and you possess a pass, please do not disturb the lesson. I will set a specific place in the room for you to place your pass and then you are to have a seat. We can discuss the reasons for your delay later, when it won't disturb class time.

### **Make-up Work:**

It is your responsibility to make sure you get any work you have missed due to absences. School policy states that you have two days for every excused absence to make up any work missed.

If you know in advance that you will be out for an extended period of time, I can usually give you assignments in advance.

Please do not disturb class to get these assignments. See me before or after class. Please refer to the student handbook for additional information regarding absences.

Please also note that school policy regarding grading of work from unexcused absences will be rigorously enforced. If a student receives ISS and fails to request work in advance of serving their suspension, the work will be considered late, when handed in. If I am unable to provide you with your assignment at the time of your request, I will make a note of it, and the work will not be considered late, if you pick it up the following day.

When turning in make-up work, you must note that date that you were absent, or the assignment will be considered late.

### **Quiz and Test Make-ups:**

If you are absent from class on the day of a quiz or a test, there is no makeup. The next quiz or test will count twice. You may not have two blanks in the gradebook at one time, so if you miss the second one, the first one will result in a zero. The only exception to this policy will be for students who know that they will be absent ahead of time. I must receive a letter, signed by a parent, requesting that alternative arrangements be made.

Remember: The semester exam is cumulative. It is composed of questions similar to the test that you will have taken all semester long. It is in your best interest to be present, on test day, with your notebook in hand.

### **Technology in the classroom:**

While we will use technology throughout this class, you may not use cell phones, pagers, cameras, personal music players, or video players in use in my class. Violation of this rule is grounds for an immediate referral. All such items should be turned off and invisible to me, or they will be confiscated.

There is nothing more important than my lesson during my class time. If a caller has an important message for you, they will leave one and you can check it later. If a family member must contact you in an emergency, they are more than welcome to call the front office and an administrator will call for you or come to collect you.

If you have any questions about this policy, please ask.

### **Textbooks:**

You will be issued a textbook to be taken from home to school each day. It may be in your best interest to purchase a lock for a locker so you are not carrying it around all day. You will be required to read the material at home PRIOR to the lesson at school. It is your responsibility to come to class prepared. If you choose not to, you will only fall behind. If you are on the obligation list, you will not be issued a textbook.

### **Bell to Bell:**

Upon entering class, there will be an assignment on the board. It is your responsibility to get out your supplies, sit in your seat, and begin working until I am ready to begin the next part of class.

The bell does not dismiss the students in my room, I do. The bell serves as a reminder to me that my lesson time has expired, it is time to wrap up, and let students go to their next class. I may need to remind you of an assignment or collect work. Please be respectful of this procedure. At no time is it permitted to line up at the door. That is elementary school behavior. I expect you all to act like teenagers.

### **Labs, Field Trips, and Guest Speakers:**

We will be doing many hands on activities in class and incorporating as many outside resources into our classroom as possible. In many cases, hands on activities can provide students a far better understanding of the topic than basic lectures or videos.

However, safety, logistics, and a basic respect for the people assisting in these activities demands that students be on their best behavior during these activities. Students who prove themselves unable to handle themselves during these additional activities will be provided with alternative assignments and risk referral to the dean's office.

### **Discipline Policy**

I try to deal with discipline in my classroom as much as possible before forwarding the issue to an administrator. If a student has been sent to the Dean for a discipline issue, it is because they have refused to cooperate with me after several conversations. I try to contact parents before a situation reaches this point. Unfortunately, this is not always possible, and I have to call after the fact. While I document every incident in the classroom, I do not feel that a parent should be called for every little thing a student does. Sometimes it is the result of a bad day on one of our parts or miscommunication and can be rectified rapidly.

Extreme consequences will result from certain “zero tolerance” behaviors in class such as violating other students, constant disruptions to interrupt lessons, cursing in class, and disrespecting the teacher or other students.

Other behavioral issues will be handled as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> consequence – removal from class to another class with article/assignment
- 2<sup>nd</sup> consequence – Phone call home/removal from class
- 3<sup>rd</sup> consequence – referral to the dean

I do not want to get you suspended. It is rather difficult to teach you if you are not here. At the same time, I cannot allow you to prevent other students from learning. Please behave.

### **Contact:**

I may be reached in a variety of ways.

School phone: 772-337-6770

Email: riskej@stlucie.k12.fl.us or jim@jimriske.com

Parent/Teacher conferences can be scheduled through the Guidance office.