

Physics Syllabus and Classroom Expectations 2025-26

This course includes the study of matter and energy and their interactions; velocity and acceleration; Newton's Laws of Motion; forces; conservation of energy and momentum; heat; electrostatics; electricity; magnetism; waves; sound; light; and modern physics.

This class requires access to a computer, notes, and assignments. Schoology will be used to access assignments for each day using the calendar.

TEACHERS:

Semilla Rivera

EMAIL:

semilla.rivera@fortbendisd.gov

TUTORIAL TIMES:

Wed/Thurs: 2:50 -3:45 PM (or by appt.) Rm 227

TUTORIALS AND CONFERENCES:

Students are encouraged to come in for help early and often. Do not wait until the day before a test to ask for help. If you would like to schedule an alternate tutorial time, please discuss this with me. All parent/guardian conferences must be scheduled, please contact me in advance to schedule a conference.

MATERIALS:

- Pencils
- Box of tissues and hand sanitizer
- Graphing paper
- Notebook with paper or a composition book

ONLINE CLASS ACCESS:

- Schoology*: Notes, classwork, videos, homework, and various other resources will be posted often.

GRADING: Grading will follow the school's policies and procedures.

- Major Grades: (50%)*
 - Each nine-week grading period will have at least three major grades and six minor grades.
 - All students will be required to complete and turn in assigned projects.
 - Retesting – this option is available for students scoring less than 75 percent on a major exam.
 - **Students must attend a tutorial session**, before being allowed to retest. All retests must be within 2 weeks of the test.
 - The maximum score that may be earned on a retest is 75 percent.
- Daily Grades: (50%)*
 - *Quizzes* – covering all material presented
 - *Activities* – labs, classwork, warm-ups, and homework
- Test/Quiz Day Rules:*
 - Calculators will be provided but you can bring your own.
 - **Cell phones will be collected from each student on test or quiz days.** Phones will be returned once all students have completed the assessment.
 - If you are in class the day of the test, you must take it unless you have been absent more than three days immediately before.

MAKE UP WORK/LATE WORK: It is your responsibility to ask the teacher for make-up work or a test immediately upon returning.

If a test was scheduled before the student was absent, the student may be required to take the test the day

he/she returns. If he/she has been absent only the day before the test, and if nothing new has been covered, he/she will be expected to take the test at the regularly scheduled time. If he/she has been absent two or more days, he/she will immediately decide with the teacher as to when to take the make-up test.

If a student has missed work, the teacher will allow that student to make up the work for a grade. Each teacher should be willing to help a student make up as much work as possible when a student has been absent from school.

If students have been sent to In-School or Out-of-School Suspension, they will receive full credit for completed work. A student suspended from campus will have the same number of days upon return to make up work. There is no academic penalty for suspension.

If students have been in the clinic or another office, they can make up their work and receive full credit. The teacher should communicate a deadline.

- Late work: 10 points off each day the assignment is late. Late assignments will not be accepted after 5 days.**
- Make-up work:** You have the same number of days as you were absent to complete work. Extended time may be provided in extenuating circumstances.
- Make up tests/quizzes: If you are absent the day of the test, you must schedule with your teacher to make up the test before or after school, within 3 days of your return to school.**
- Make up lab:** You must still complete the lab, you will either receive data results from your lab partners or from your instructor, then you will be responsible for completing the lab. You are responsible for any quiz or test related to the lab.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

- Attendance:** Each student is expected to be in class with the proper materials every day.
- Tardies:** If you are not inside the classroom when the tardy bell rings, you will have to check in at the tardy station before entering the classroom.
- Behavior:** All students are expected to follow school and class rules. In lab, following the safety rules is extremely important, failure to do so will result in removal from future lab activities and/or disciplinary action.
- Restroom:** You may be allowed to use the restroom in an emergency, but repeated requests and long absences will result in loss of restroom privilege. You must carry a pass at all times. You will not be allowed to use the restroom during direct instruction.

RESTROOM



CLASSROOM PRACTICES:

- Entering Class:** Pick up any papers, go to your assigned seat, sit down and quietly begin your warm-up.
- Turning in Work:** Every student is expected to turn in their own assignment when it is due.
- Direct Instruction:** Sit quietly in your seat, listen, and take notes or whatever is expected.
- Individual Work:** Sit quietly in your seat and do your own work.
- Group Work and Activities:** Sit with your group and work only on your group's product together.
- Tests and Quizzes:** Sit silently in your assigned seat, turn in your electronic devices to your teacher, and do your own work. Students observed communicating with other students will lose 30 points for each offense, and further discipline as needed.
- End of Class:** Keep working until the end of class. We will end with an exit ticket.

ACDEMIC DISHONESTY

Consequences for academic dishonesty will result in a zero, a parent call, and a disciplinary referral. Student will be allowed to take a retest for up to 75% on their first offense. The student will also lose their chance to take a retest for any subsequent offenses. You may also be disqualified from participating in academic awards/programs and/or clubs or organizations, per the Student Code of Conduct.

UNIT ORGANIZATION:

The schedule may change throughout the year, please check Schoology regularly for updates.

Grading Period 1

- Unit 1:* Safety, Motion (1- and 2- Dimensional, Circular Motion)
- Unit 2:* Forces, Momentum (Impulse and Collisions)
- Unit 3:* Energy, (Mechanical Energy, Conservation of Energy, Work, Power)
- Unit 4:* Newton's Laws of Gravitation, Orbital Motion, Kepler's Laws
- Unit 5:* Electricity and Magnetism (Electric Force, Circuits, Magnetic Force)
- Unit 6:* Waves (Properties of Waves, Wave Behavior and Sound, Optics and Light)
- Unit 7:* Electromagnetic Radiation (EM Wave Properties, Quantum Phenomenon, Radiation and Matter)

ELECTRONIC POLICY AT SCHOOL:

Starting in the **2025–26 school year**, students in all Texas public and charter schools, including Fort Bend ISD, will be required to keep personal communication devices **powered off and out of sight while on school property during the school day**.

This includes items such as **cell phones, smart watches/glasses, two-way radios (walkie-talkies), tablets, and similar technology**. The law is designed to support focused, distraction-free learning environments and enhance campus safety. Students with medical needs or special education accommodations will be granted exceptions as documented.

Prohibited Use: Students in grades 2-12 shall not use a personal telecommunication device on school property during the school day. While on school property, the student shall store any personal communication devices in their backpacks. Accessing any personal telecommunication device anywhere on campus during the school day is strictly prohibited.

Key Expectations for FBISD Students

Beginning in Fall 2025, the following guidelines will be in effect for all FBISD campuses:

- Students must turn off all personal electronic devices while on school property from "**Bell to Bell**", starting at the beginning bell, until the final bell of the day.
- Devices must remain **stored in backpacks or lockers** and should not be carried in pockets or worn during the day.
- Any device that is used or visible during school hours may be **confiscated**, and the student may receive a **disciplinary consequence**.
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These expectations apply to **all indoor areas**, including:

- Classrooms
- Hallways
- Library
- Cafeteria
- Restrooms and locker rooms
- Any other shared campus spaces
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Campus leadership will determine when students may use their devices to connect with parents or guardians about transportation or after-school plans, following the final dismissal bell.

Communication During the School Day

We understand families may need to reach their children during school hours. Please contact the **campus front office**, and staff will ensure your message is delivered. If a student needs to make a call during the day, they should go to the front office for assistance.