*Harrison Mission Statement:*

HOYA PRIDE

Helping Our Youth Achieve by Providing Relevant Instruction for a Diverse Environment

Physics

Welcome to the World of Physics. Prepare to experience inertia of the brain as we tour the minds and discoveries of the likes of Newton, Einstein, Tesla and Galileo. You won’t be just watching other people talk about science; you are about to DO science and thus gain a deep and useful understanding of everyday phenomena. Buckle up because here we go!!

# As with any journey, a little planning in the beginning can make all the difference in how the trip turns out. You may not be an expert in everything we do by the end of the trip, but you should be able to describe things pretty well whenever we reach port. So let’s hit a few of the highlights of experiences to expect.

**The Overview:**

 Daily Adventures 20%

 Excursions 20%

 Challenges 45%

 The Ultimate Challenge 15%

**Travel details:**

So how will we know how the journey is going? How will the tour director, Dr. Schomer, know whether our voyage is a quality experience? How many segments

1. Daily adventures (class work, labs, homework)(20%)

As we progress towards our goals, expect a multitude of adventures. All of the travelers will be expected to participate in experimental discoveries, doing projects alone and some in groups, building devices to enhance our journey, join in on discussions that may continue into the evening (homework-details about homework are found on the back of the syllabus) and just have plain ole fun. Because all of these things will be so exciting and informative, here’s what you should do if you happen to miss one of our adventures (for an **excused** reason of course), **check my blog at http://www.harrisonhigh.org/Science**. This site will give you easy access to our daily itinerary as well as other nifty tidbits to help you on our journey.

1. Excursions (quizzes) (20%)

As we travel along, sometimes little trips can be a great way to see how the voyage is going. We tend to have these little excursions about once or twice for each leg of our journey. These excursions are a great way to see how things are going as well as prepare travelers for the many challenges they’ll face throughout the journey.

1. Challenges (tests)(45%)

What’s an adventure without any challenge to it? So throughout the tour there will be about 8 unique opportunities for you to demonstrate what you’ve done and seen, in your own words of course. So as to not scare the passengers, I’ll always give you about one week’s notice when we’re approaching a challenge. This will give you time to prepare and **meet with me, if necessary**. ***Since you will usually know far in advance about a challenge, you’ll be expected to participate on the set date or the first date after you re-join the group (if you’re absent that day)*.** Only if you’ve missed several or more days should you be excused temporarily from participating in the challenge. But as said before in the daily adventures, the tour will go on so try to catch up as quickly as possible. Make up days for challenges and excursions are **Tuesday mornings and Wednesday afternoons**. The actual locations for making up these assignments are posted outside my room.

1. The Ultimate challenge (final exam)(15%)

The ultimate challenge will be the ‘final’, the last hoorah, the big whammy, or sometimes called el Grande enchilada. Whatever the case, it will basically sum up our trip.

There are several items you should bring along that will make the trip more enjoyable and successful. So take a look at the list and be sure to have these items on your person at all times during our trip; you’ll never know when you’re going to need it.

**Supplies for the trip:**

1. **3-ring binder with paper and dividers**
2. **One four pack of dry erase markers (students use these daily)**
3. **Calculator especially since they CANNOT use cellphones during assessments (nothing too fancy is necessary)**

**Need for personal assistance:**

Sometimes travelers need to revisit something because they just couldn’t embrace everything the first time through. If that’s the case, I am available for **extra help most morning 7:30-8:00**. You can always schedule a time by contacting me at scott.schomer@cobbk12.org or 678-594-8104 ext 1318. See “Physics Help” document for even more options.

**See the next page for our trip rules.**

**Physics RULES!!**

By now you’ve read the travel details and I hope you’ve asked questions if you got ‘em. Now we need to talk about the rules for participating on our tour. Know that these rules are for the safety of the passengers and will be enforced. We want everyone to enjoy the trip but that’s contingent upon adhering to the following guidelines.

**The rules:**

1. **Be respectful** of the other passengers. Since we will do so many things together, it’s important that we are polite, open-minded and fair.
2. **Be curious but courteous**. Please ask questions and participate in our experiments and discussions, but do so in a respectful manner. Safety is always an issue when dealing with multiple people and equipment. Speaking of equipment, it’s there to be used!! And sometimes accidents will happen and the equipment will be ruined. ***However, if the equipment is used inappropriately and damaged in the process, be ready to fork over some dough*** (enough to replace the item). Other people should not have to suffer because of your recklessness.
3. **Be prepared**. Anytime you take a trip, you sometimes forget something, but this can be hazardous to the enjoyment of the journey. It’s okay every now and then to forget something, but you will get penalized for repeated infractions. So pack your bags appropriately (**notebook, paper, calculator, pens, pencils**).
4. **Be on time**. When the tour leaves, be there when it does. I’ll expect you to be at headquarters (Rm. 318) and near your station when we sound the tones. It won’t do any good to try and run once the tones begin, you’ll be considered late. The tour company (school policy) has specific consequences for breaking this rule; just check the company manual (student handbook on the Harrison website). As an employee of the company, I follow the policy.

You hate to talk about these things but here are some of the consequences for breaking our tour rules. Of course your tour director (teacher) will make the final decision but you can bet it will be fair and appropriate.

* Minor infractions: May result in warnings, light clean up within the room, short detentions, reduction of bathroom/hall pass privileges, and/or menial tasks such as hole-punching/stapling. Parents are contacted for repeated infractions or continual disruptions.
* Major infractions: May result in either more intense or time-consuming episodes of all of the above, parental contact and/or administrative referral.

Special Rule about cell phone use in the classroom:

Classroom Policy:

Cell phones can be accessed during class only when permission to do so has been granted. Otherwise, cell phones should not be visible/in use during instruction.

1st offense – 30 minute detention (serve within one week of infraction)

2nd offense – 30 minute detention (serve within one week of infraction) and contact parent

3rd offense – Administrative referral

Homework Policy

**Purpose of Homework**: The reasons why I assign homework are two-fold:

1. To allow for practice and further manipulation of the ideas presented in class.
2. To preview upcoming material.

**Goal of Homework:** To move students toward mastery of the content and skills which are considered essential for this course.

The homework assignments will be assessed in one of the following ways:

1. The assignment is stamped for completeness. **Homework counts as a daily grade**. Easily 90% of the homework assigned will be assessed in this manner.
2. Formatively assessed via classroom discussion/student interaction.
3. Summatively assessed for a grade most likely in the form of a short quiz. A common example of this type of assessment might be a schoology quiz.

No matter how the assignments are assessed, they will always be discussed in class and students will always have the opportunity to ask questions. If time in class does not prove sufficient, extra help is available.

Stamped homework counts as a grade in the daily category. There is, however, one possible exception to this process. *Only students who score a 90% or higher on a unit test can choose to exempt their homework grade for that unit.*