

Testimonials from Redwood Physics Students

“The class really teaches you how to approach complex problems and find solutions based on what you know, which is very applicable in future STEM courses. I feel I am evenly matched, if not more prepared, when compared to my friends who have taken AP physics.”

Haley Johnson, UCLA, class of 2023

“I was able to get a strong foundation in many physics concepts which allowed me to go into freshman year with better physics knowledge than many of my classmates. That way, while they were still struggling to learn the basic concepts (which at first can be counterintuitive and confusing) I was able to focus on the more complex problems they had thrown at us. Learning physics in a small hands-on classroom setting at Redwood let me feel confident in my physics abilities when I then had to face a large college physics lecture and more advanced ideas.”

Maddie Pero, Tufts University, class of 2023

“The topics explored are interesting and applicable in many fields of study. The class will also teach you how to organize your work for math and science, a skill that translates everywhere. For those considering honors, I will say it is a harder class. There will be more homework to complete, more topics to learn, and your exams will be significantly more challenging. But the academic rigor will make you a better student.”

Avery Briggs, University of Oregon, class of 2023

“Last year, physics was by far my favorite class. I found it different than many of my other classes as it created such a hands-on learning environment, which I loved. At the same time, I had the opportunity to learn many different math skills and concepts which have helped me in many courses at Redwood.”

Mathilde Caindec, Vanderbilt University, class of 2023

“(Honors) physics was probably the single most helpful class I have taken at Redwood to prepare me for college coursework. Surprisingly, it has helped immensely in college chemistry where it is crucial to be fluent in unit conversions. It has also helped with the energy concepts we go over in chemistry. I feel so much more prepared than a lot of my classmates and I think this class played a big part in that. If you want to major in anything STEM related, this class is a must!?”

Diana Bourke, UC Davis, class of 2023

“Physics at Redwood was probably my favorite class because I was able to apply virtually everything I learned, short of relativity, to every-day situations. This made the class more fun and interesting for me and my friends.”

Freddie Kehoe, University of Oregon, class of 2023

“Taking honors physics at Redwood was a GREAT decision especially for those going into STEM. It provided me with a very useful background of important concepts, a life-saver in my physics class this semester”

Stash Pomichter, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, class of 2022

“Not only was Honors Physics one of my favorite classes I ever took at Redwood, but it has prepared me really well for college physics. Many of my classmates took AP Physics in high school and although it's only the beginning of the quarter, I feel like I know just as much as they do, and I'm so much less stressed about this course because of that. I know that having a great foundation in Physics from high school will help me this quarter and in the coming years. I hope more girls enroll in Honors Physics because it's so awesome and I'd love for the gender distribution to improve in STEM.”

Hannah Wieck, UCLA, class of 2022

“Redwood Physics is an often challenging, but very rewarding class. I can honestly say that it is one of the best classes I have taken at Redwood and it just gets more and more fun as the year goes on.”

Delilah Mittermaier, McGill University class of 2023

“I really loved taking physics! I learned about topics that I had never looked into or done any kind of work with before and that exploration into physics topics, with a great teacher and highly motivated students, has definitely impacted my interests in college and has opened me up to exploring new paths that I hadn’t considered before.”

Clara McKinley, Washington University in St. Louis, class of 2022

“While I am not a physics or engineer major, physics at Redwood High School was very helpful for my college courses. Students who take chemistry, math, or physics classes at UCSD will often struggle without an understanding of physics, which this class provided me. The physics class at Redwood prepared me the same amount if not more than any AP or honor class I took during high school. Not only does this class prepare you for college, but it is also very interesting and covers a wide range of topics. I suggest this class to anyone who plans or has an interest in STEM.”

Max Igou, UCSD, class of 2022

“I am attending UC San Diego and majoring in Structural Engineering. I am taking Classic Mechanics this quarter. Your class was very helpful as it gave me a good foundation in physics; your equation sheets are still very helpful. I would advise Redwood students to consider taking Honors Physics if they are looking forward to studying Physics in college.”

Ivan Kurakin, UCSD, class of 2022

“A great thing about this class is that it's been designed so that busywork is almost entirely eliminated. Every assignment you receive really is helpful (and often necessary) to understanding the material. Labs are fun! Not to mention that learning about how the universe works is just very cool.”

Stephanie Oh, University of Chicago, class of 2021

“I would definitely encourage anyone considering a STEM major -- or even with an interest in STEM fields -- to take physics at Redwood, because it's a great way to get introduced to the core concepts in a low-pressure environment with lots of support.”

Scott McCrae, UC Berkeley, class of 2021

“I’m currently a sophomore at Cal taking physics as a requirement for med school. I’m really glad I took (honors) physics in high school because introductory physics at Cal is extremely rigorous but having the background of (honors) physics from Redwood familiarized me with the topics and made it easier to succeed in this “weeder” course. For anyone at all interested in the sciences I would say high school physics is a must and colleges expect to see it on your high school transcript.”

Kenzie Johnson, UC Berkeley, class of 2020

“I’m not currently enrolled in physics, but I will have to take two semesters at Cal for my major (Molecular and Cellular Biology). A few of my friends have taken college physics already and after looking at the work they have done in their physics classes, I am so glad that I have had exposure to physics before taking two whole semesters. If (students) have any interest in any sort of STEM major, it will be extremely helpful to have some exposure to physics in high school before jumping straight into college level physics!”

Neeve Kennedy, UC Berkeley, class of 2021

“Taking physics was well out of my comfort zone, but I ended up appreciating the real-world applications of the class, and it was really rewarding to learn material that I would usually be intimidated by. Also, the labs are super cool.”

Natalie Epstien, UCLA, class of 2021

If you're planning on being a STEM major, including life science, taking physics in high school is a good idea, because you will probably have to take physics in college, and being familiar with the material before the class begins will give you a big advantage.”

Daniel Oh, UCLA, class of 2021

One of the most interesting classes I have taken at Redwood. (Physics) has the coolest phenomena to show as examples and they kind of blow your mind. Physics 1 in college is basically (Redwood) physics class all over again and it was super helpful to come in with the base knowledge of physics it teaches you. Physics rocks!!”

Kate Garrison, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, class of 2021

“I am expected to know physics in my other classes. I took a MATLAB programming class from the engineering department and even though physics was not a prerequisite it was expected that you knew at least laws of motion, PE and KE, etc. If you didn't you not only looked stupid but wouldn't be able to solve many problems. Even in my physiology class we need to have an understanding of basics of electricity....if you're doing any science/engineering major and you haven't taken physics in high school you're making your life a lot harder at the very least.”

Ashlyn D'Orazio, UC San Diego, class of 2021

“This quarter I am taking physics and although the pace of the class is difficult, it is manageable because taking physics at Redwood exposed me to all the concepts and basic material. I would strongly suggest taking physics because not only is it crucial if you will be taking physics in college, but also because it is a fun class that you will enjoy coming to every week.”

Emily Johnson, Cal Poly, class of 2021

“One thing I took away from Physics class was just the ability to see things in the real world and know the quantitative reasons behind why they behave that way. It was really cool to see that and say ‘yup, I know why.’”

Michael Schroer, University of Colorado Boulder, class of 2022

“Having taken physics at Redwood, I feel well prepared for physics in college, and unlike my peers who didn't take physics, I am not worried about my upcoming physics courses. The introduction to the concepts of physics has allowed me to look forward to topics I like and be prepared for those I was less fond of.”

Joshua Sparler, UC Berkeley, class of 2020

“I have already taken 2 semesters of physics in college so far and would like to say that what I learned in your class applied directly to what I was learning in my college level physics classes. It helped me greatly already having a basic understanding of physics and I actually referenced your physics formula sheet because I thought it was better than the one I received at school. Anybody thinking of going into a STEM major in college should definitely take physics in high school to help prepare them for college. It really helped me in my first two physics college classes. I wish I had taken your honors class because, for me, the regular physics class moved to slowly. I would push anybody considering taking the honors section to do so if they are up for a challenge and what to learn more in depth.”

Parker Bartlett, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, class of 2020

“(Honors) Physics prepared me for college better than almost any other class, AP or otherwise, that I took at Redwood. If you think you'll want to take even a single physics course in college, I highly recommend this class. But don't just take it as college preparation - take it because it is well taught, explores a broad range of fascinating topics, and challenges you to solve intellectually stimulating problems and view the world in a different way. Yes, it can be difficult at times, but in my opinion the benefits of taking it outweigh the costs.”

Jeremy Goldwasser, Yale University, class of 2021

“I'm currently enrolled in Physics for winter quarter, and also took an Astronomy course fall quarter that was pretty heavy in physics as well. I think high school physics definitely prepared me pretty well because so far in my physics class I have been at least familiar with what we've been learning. While college physics goes much faster, I would be much less prepared and probably a lot more confused if I didn't take physics in high school. I also think algebra-based physics helped a lot with my foundation for doing calculus-based physics.”

Haley Bjursten, UC Santa Barbara, class of 2021