

Physics and the Universe
Ms. Marta Di Domizio

mdidomizio@tamdistrict.org
(415) 651 5325 Ext. 3440

I am excited to welcome you to Physics and the Universe! This is a UC-approved lab science course in which you will learn some laws of Physics, how they shaped the Universe and Earth, our understanding of them, and how they affect our daily lives. In addition to learning the content below, you will improve your data analysis skills, scientific writing, and lab design skills. This year, we will focus on the following units of study:

Fall Semester

- Evidence of the Big Bang
- Light, Waves and Electromagnetic Spectrum
- Stars Life Cycle
- Orbits and Inverse Square Law
- Newton's Laws of Motion and Momentum

Spring Semester

- Kinetic and Potential Energy and Earth' Formation
- Radioactive Decay and Earth's Evolution
- Radioactive Decay, Waves and Plate Tectonics
- Thermodynamics
- Types of Energy, Electricity and Magnetism
- Build a Radio

Class Expectations:

- Participate in all activities during class with a goal of learning, not completion.
- Do all homework outside of class with a goal of learning, not completion.
- Be a reflective student: know your learning goals and be able to identify what you understand and what you don't understand.
- Be proactive: if you don't understand something, ask.

Course Policies:

Grades: Grades are based on points earned divided by points possible. The semester average is a running total from start to finish, not an average of the three progress report grades. Because of this, the third progress report average is the same as the semester average. The overall average is converted to a letter grade according to the following scale:

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-------|----|---------|
| 100-98 | A+ | 89-88 | B+ | 79-78 | C+ | 69-68 | D+ | |
| 97-93 | A | 87-83 | B | 77-73 | C | 67-63 | D | |
| 92-90 | A- | 82-80 | B- | 72-70 | C- | 62-60 | D- | 59-00 F |

Grades are posted on Canvas throughout the semester and Home Access at the end of each grading period and semester. *It is your responsibility to check your grade regularly, paying particular attention to missing assignments* and the overall accuracy of the report. I will correct any mistakes in recorded grades as long as you keep the original graded work. Missing assignments count as zeros.

Assignments take a number of different forms, giving you a variety of methods to both learn and demonstrate your learning. In the first few weeks of the semester, based on my observations of our new online course, I'll review how much each type of assignment will contribute to your final grade. For the moment, your gradebook is set up as follows:

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----|------------|-----|
| Classwork (incl. labs) | 40% | Final exam | 10% |
| Tests | 40% | Readings | 10% |

Absences and Late Work: It is very important to attend class. Even when you make up work, you do not get the full benefit of the work done during live instruction.

Before you return to class after an absence, you should check the online agenda posted on Canvas and make up any missed assignments as soon as possible. It is your responsibility to keep track, make up and turn in any missed assignments.

Late work will only be accepted within a week from the due date, after that, the assignment will close and you will earn a zero for it. Late work will automatically be deducted 10% of the total points value for EACH 24-hrs period from the due date and time. For example, an assignment originally worth 10 points and submitted two days late, can earn up to 8 points (80% of the total points value).

Tardies and unexcused absences: It is very important for you to be on time as I give out key information in the first few minutes of class. I follow District policy and *lower grades for tardies and unexcused absences* as follows:

A student is tardy when not ready to immediately work or follow instructions when the bell begins to ring. For the first period of the day, a tardy becomes an unexcused absence 10 minutes after the bell rings. For all other periods, 5 minutes after the bell rings a tardy becomes an unexcused absence.

Tardies and unexcused absences *both count* toward lowered grades: 3 tardies = 1 unexcused absence. Up to 4 unexcused absences = grade lowered by up to one letter grade.

At any time a student or parent/guardian may check a student's attendance record by contacting the attendance office. Also, the attendance office maintains a procedure for correcting errors in attendance recording.

Homework: Homework is assigned to support you in your learning. You are expected to turn it in on the due date/time.

Academic Honesty: Be familiar with the TUHSD academic honesty policies. Any written work turned in must be your own work. It will be considered cheating not only if you copy someone else's work, but also if you share your work with others. Copying and pasting information from the internet is also considered cheating. In circumstances such as these, you will receive a 0 on the assignment with no opportunity to make it up.

How to be Successful in this Class:

Focus on learning. Aim to understand, not only memorize. Complete work every day to learn every day. Ask questions when you don't understand. Finish class each day knowing more than when it started. Keep class materials organized chronologically in one place (you'll need them to study for your tests and final).

How not to be Successful in this Class:

Focus on completing work instead of learning. Turn in other students' work instead of your own. Procrastinate and lag behind. Leave all learning until test time. Memorizing instead of understanding. Save files and materials in random order and places.