AP Physics 2 Course Outline

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**General:**

* Education is not about marks, it is about LEARNING.
* **AP Physics 2: Algebra-Based** is the equivalent to a second-semester college course in algebra-based physics.
* This course is offered to students interested in (and qualified for) the challenges of an advanced placement science course.
* Upon completion, ***students are expected to take the AP Physics 2 Algebra-Based exam*** to obtain college credit.

The Job of the Student:

* AP Physics B is a university level course. Therefore the expectations on you will be higher than for a non-AP course. I expect students to take personal responsibility for their own learning. Learning requires two participants: A teacher (Mr. McPhee) and a learner (You). Without question the learner is the most important part of the learning equation. Learning is a verb, learning is an action, learning is something you must do. Sitting in class, taking notes and nodding politely is NOT LEARNING it is STUDENTING.
* Your job is not to get the highest mark possible, nor should that be your goal (Gasp!). The real goal must be learning, that is the point of education; that is why we are all here. I expect a lot from my students; namely, I expect that they will try. I sincerely hope that you will become engaged, that you will become active in your learning. I am fully aware that not everyone will love physics like I do, but I am equally aware that do not need to love something to give it your best effort.
* What this means is that I expect you to do more than simply attend and hand in all assigned work. I expect you to participate, I expect you to engage. I want you to challenge me, to ask hard questions. I expect you to seek connections between the classroom and the rest of the world. Physics is everywhere, quite literally. See it.

The Job of the Teacher:

* There are more of you than me. It is you, therefore, that must do the heavy lifting. I am here to guide you, to set an appropriate pace, to co-ordinate and to make sure that the material is covered before the exam. I cannot make you learn.
* It is my job to create an appropriate environment for learning. It is my job to make sure that we all feel respected and safe. It is my job to listen and watch and attempt to create a situation in which we all feel comfortable making mistakes. I will make jokes, super funny jokes, I may reprimand, I may even get upset at times, but my goal always remains for you to get the most out of yourself. I am here to challenge you. If you ever feel that am in any way being unfair, please approach me respectfully so we can discuss your concerns.

Homework:

* Homework is for you, not for me. I will not collect and mark your homework.
* You are expected to use homework as a tool to help you prepare for tests and quizzes.

Tests and Quizzes:

* The vast majority of your mark for this course will be determined by results on tests and quizzes.
* Tests will generally follow each major unit. You will be given a minimum of ONE WEEK notice before a test.
* Quizzes can occur at any time. Your job is to keep up with the course work, often we will start a class with a quiz covering the material from the previous one or two classes. If you are keeping up with your homework this will pose no problem.
* At the end of the term students will be allowed to have TWO quizzes exempted.

Labs:

* You are expected to have a SEPARATE lab notebook.
* The lab notebook is for collecting data, sketching diagrams and making any observations.
* Most lab activities WILL NOT be collected for marks.
* Formal labs will be completed separately from the lab notebook.

Extra Help:

* The majority of learning occurs outside of the classroom, when you are previewing, reviewing or attempting problems. If you fall behind please come to see me for extra help. I will make myself available as much as possible. This year I am not at school on Day 2. This means I will never be available the day before an exam. I will be around before and after school most Day 1s.
* Also, please ask me questions in class. It makes things much better for both you and me. If you don’t ask I will assume you understand which, if true, is fantastic. However, if untrue, you may fall behind and be doomed to a year of indescribable misery. Please don’t ask you neighbour; they are as confused as you.
* I truly want my students to come in for help; however I demand that they are prepared. This means you must bring all of attempted solutions and corrections so that I can try to determine what the source of the misunderstanding is. I will not simply tell you how to do a question, as that will do little or nothing to help you learn the concepts.

**Absences:**

* If you are absent, REGARDLESS OF THE REASON, you are expected to make up for what you miss before you return. This means you will not receive homework extensions due to absence.
* If you must be absent from a test you **MUST MAKE ARRANGEMENTS PRIOR TO THE ABSENCE, OTHERWISE YOU WILL RECEIVE A SCORE OF ZERO FOR THE MISSED TEST**.