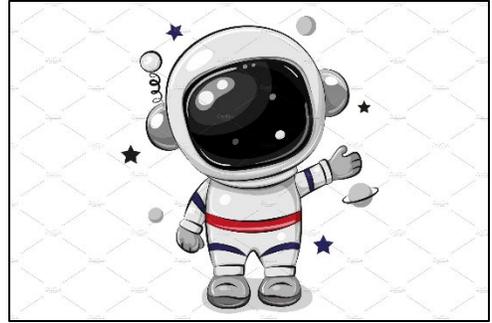


# Physics, Ms. Finlayson

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<https://www.slcschools.instructure.com>

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## About Our Class

Physics education helps students identify problems, build confidence, and become well-rounded citizens and scientists.

Students will develop skills, design experiments, critique assumptions, and reflect. Students will also develop an appreciation for ancient civilizations and their science as well as how political, economic, and historic processes influence the development of science.

Students are expected to be prepared, productive, and honest. Student projects may be displayed publicly both on and off-campus, including school social media accounts (with first names only). Students will be encouraged to participate in the district science fair but will not be required to participate.

Students can receive extra credit for additional work they perform while in this class. However, students must complete all work before any extra credit counts toward their grade. There will be a limit on the total extra credit points possible.

## Online Norms and Classroom Expectations

Online learning will look a bit different this year. As we will be using Zoom for at least the first term, the following norms will be expected from all students:

1. Be on-time. Because we are only meeting twice a week for 45 minutes synchronously, it is extremely important that you are on-time and ready to learn.
2. Be respectful. Sometimes when we're in online courses, it's easier to say something that we wouldn't normally in person
3. Turn your camera on. It's a lot harder to stay engaged when you don't feel like anyone can see you. If for some reason you cannot have your camera on, please email me and let me know what the situation is and how we can accommodate your technology needs so I can see you.
4. Remember: everyone can see your face on Zoom. I'm not kidding. If you make a weird face or do something, I can see it and so can your classmates. With that being said, please don't eat a full meal on Zoom. I know it's really tempting, but don't do it. If you need a quick snack, that's fine... but don't make me watch you eat a burger over video. Gross.

Every few weeks, students will be given a "take home" physics kit to perform different experiments and activities. These are to be returned every two weeks and exchanged if we are in an online format. These activities are meant to be enjoyable and interactive, so have fun with them.

## Online Format and Procedures

The teacher will respond to email by the end of the following school day. If multiple emails are received regarding the same question or concern, they may be responded to with an Announcement to the entire class. Teachers will update grades weekly, and final course grades will be shown in PowerSchool, not Canvas.

Students will continue to **communicate** and **participate** during distance learning by setting aside adequate time Monday through Friday to read announcements, emails, assignments, and assignment comments. Students will complete Canvas assignments, activities, and attend virtual class meetings that teachers. If students submit another's work as their own (plagiarism), they will lose assignment credit. Students and parents should discuss concerns or questions with instructors through Canvas email or by emailing the teacher directly. It is highly recommended that students maintain a healthy sleep schedule, even during distance learning.

Basic Introduction: To keep things simple, each week you will have 5 things to do. Just one thing every day! Due dates for these assignments are found in Canvas.

**Day 1:** Watch a video and take notes (due before your synchronous class)

**Day 2:** Come to class

**Day 3/Digital Day:** Perform an experiment/activity (due before your synchronous class)

**Day 4:** Come to class

**Day 5:** Watch and discuss the history of science video (due before your synchronous class)

The videos will be somewhere between 5-15 minutes long. When you watch the video, you will be required to take notes. These notes will help you accomplish the lab/activity. After you complete the activity, you'll complete a quick assignment that will help you connect the concept and the activity. This will almost always be done in our synchronous class. Finally, you'll watch a video about the history of science and discuss any questions you have about the homework, lab, or concepts with your classmates.

## Outside Contact and Extra Help

There will be 3 opportunities each week to connect with me. Each of the below zoom links can be found on your student's physics canvas course under Zoom Links:

**Help Sessions:** These will be held by *all* of our 9<sup>th</sup> grade teachers from 1-3pm every Wednesday. There will be a single zoom link that you be able to access. Here you can get detailed help for homework, rework problems and get help with your at-home labs. You will be able to access this link under "Zoom Links" on the physics home page.

**Science Seminar:** These are spaces that all students are welcome, but where I will personally invite you to come chat with me. Sometimes it will be to dig deeper into a physics topic or explore a phenomenon (like the concept of zero). At other times, it would be to go back over the homework or ideas presented in class or simply to chat. You can access that link here:

<https://slcschools-org.zoom.us/j/98472496434?pwd=bVB5ajg0Y1B0YjAxekM2OHg2cXcxUT09>

**Teacher Access:** These are times where you or your parents can reach me to talk about grades, how amazing you are, or how I can better help you. These will be held every Tuesday from 4:30

to 5:30pm and preferably by appointment. You can access that link here: <https://slcschools-org.zoom.us/j/95778816337?pwd=ZTViNi9FanAzRmpLYkZOVzBrZzJyUT09>

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
Science Seminar 3:15-3:45pm	Teacher Access 4:30-5:30pm	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Help Session from 1- 3pm	Send me an email if you need help	Science Seminar 3:15-3:45pm

### **Grading**

Grades can be checked at any time through the district’s webpage and will be updated weekly, usually on the weekend. Students and parents should check grades regularly to make sure they are accurate and promptly notify the teacher of any discrepancies.

Every student can receive an A because grading is based on mastery. This is very different from some of your other classes. Each test will be cumulative -- that means that every test will have principles from ***past units***. So, let's say you bombed the first test. 60% - not great. Instead of redoing the test and past homework, you would prepare for the next test where there will be new questions from unit 1. If you can prove that you’ve learned the unit 1 content on the second, I’ll improve your grade based on the principles that you’ve now mastered.

If a student does not hand in work by the due date, they will receive a zero. Students may continue to work on assignments and hand them in late. However, late work will automatically be docked to 80% of the grade. After a week, it goes down to 50% of the grade. If a student is dishonest, cheats, or has an unexcused absence (sluffing), they will not receive points, and these points cannot be made-up.

### **Citizenship Grades**

Most students will receive an “S” for “satisfactory” behavior. “H”s are reserved for students that go above and beyond to demonstrate “honorable” behavior. Begging for or demanding an “H” is not honorable behavior. If a student is frequently tardy, unprepared, sluffs class, or does not clean up, their citizenship grade will be lowered. To remediate an “N” or “U,” students need to cease the offending behavior, then schedule a community service project with the teacher to make-up their citizenship grade. This project needs to be approved in advance and completed before the last two weeks of the quarter.

### **In-Person Format and Procedures**

If a student feels unwell or has a fever, please keep them home. Students can always make up work for excused absences.

Students are to arrive on time and prepared to give their best effort. Students will be given a composition notebook specifically to be used in physics. Assignments will be completed individually, but in groups in class. If a student would like to take assignments home to finish them. Students should not bring food, drinks, gum, or toys to class. These will be confiscated and not returned. If students are chronically absent and they miss a lab or activity, the lab/activity will not be recreated. Unless sick, students need to be present every day.

## Contact

If you need to reach me, email [liz.finlayson@slcschools.org](mailto:liz.finlayson@slcschools.org) and we can set up a time to chat – preferably during “teacher access time”. However, an in-person meeting, an appointment, or zoom call works perfectly well. I am available by appointment after school. Email is the preferred form of contact.

## Physics Phun! (It’s always spelled with a ph)

I’m looking forward to learning with you and your family this upcoming year! I promise to do everything I can to make this class enjoyable, engaging, and academic. As we are flexible, honest, and collaborative, I think this year will be the best yet!

Finally, with your student, please go to the following link and respond to a quick 10 question survey. This will be confirmation for me (Ms. Finlayson) that you (the parent and/or guardian) have received this document and understand how your student will be assessed and expected to participate in the 2020-21 school year.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=iFl4W1nRVkKZxmR0oGlvE6yowBR8yBFHro1YpU4nJFURDY1QUwzRFIGV0tPSEU2VDRJSc0OE40WC4u>



Thank you,

Ms. Finlayson

# Physics Disclosure

## Signatures

Parents and guardians, please sign and return this paper or email [liz.finlayson@slcschools.org](mailto:liz.finlayson@slcschools.org) to let Ms. Finlayson know you've received the disclosure.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship (other than parent): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent /Guardian Email:

(optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Other information about your student that may be helpful or any concerns you may have:

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