

## **2025-2026 Physics Syllabus**

### ***Instructor Information:***

Mr. Zachary Smith  
Room 1111  
Email: zsmith@genvalley.org

### ***Student Supplies:***

Folder  
Pencil  
Ipad  
Textbook: Physics by James S. Walker

### ***Course Description:***

Physics is a laboratory science course that examines the relationship between matter and energy and how they interact. This course will have a strong emphasis on the mathematics of physics. Students will explore physics concepts through an inquiry approach. Embedded standards for Inquiry, Technology & Engineering, and Mathematics are taught in the context of the content standards for Mechanics, Thermodynamics, Waves and Sound, Light and Optics, Electricity and Magnetism, and Atomic and Nuclear Science.

### ***Extra Help:***

I will be available after school every day until 3:30 pm. My door is also usually open during my free periods. You are more than welcome to check to see if I am available for help. I could also be available before school, if given advanced notice. The advance notice needs to be early the day before.

### ***Grades Breakdown:***

Classwork - 10%  
Homework – 15 %  
Quizzes – 20 %  
Tests/Projects - 35 %  
Labs – 20%

### ***Classwork:***

Warmups will be assigned in class most days. These will be short assignments that will mostly be used for review and to help build background knowledge for the day's lesson. Warmups can be corrected. Occasionally instead of homework there will be classwork instead of homework.

### ***Homework:***

Homework will be assigned at least once a week. The students are expected to do ALL homework, even late homework. This homework grade will be created from the average the homework assignment grades the student received.

### ***Quizzes:***

Quizzes will be given weekly. Quiz day will be on Friday's. Any material covered previously is fair game. As the year goes on review questions will be included. Some topics require short memorization quizzes these will average in as well. Mr. Smith also reserves the right to give pop quizzes. I will drop the lowest quiz grade.

***Tests/Projects:***

Unit tests will cover all the material given in that unit. Each test will be different, but the general form will be multiple choice questions, and short answer questions. Tests will be completed in one class; extra time will not be allowed. For some units, instead of a unit test a project may be used instead. Project will cover the same material that would have been on the unit test. Rubrics will be used to grade such projects.

***Labs:***

Lab time is required for students to take the Physics regents. Students need to complete all the labs to take be able to sit for the Physics regents. The expectation is one lab a week. Students will perform labs and then have two days to complete the questions or to complete the lab report. Lab day will usually be Wednesday's, which mean the lab will be due on Friday. Students will have to make up labs when absent, they will need to organize this with Mr. Smith. Students will need to get a 65 on a lab to be part of their lab requirement.

***Back-work Policy:***

Homework assignments will have a 10% penalty every day after it is due. This includes weekends.

***Classroom Expectations/Rules:***

These are attached. These need to be read and reviewed by the students and parents or guardians. These will be signed and returned to Mr. Smith for the first homework grade.

## **2025-2026 Physics Expectations**

### **Student Expectations:**

#### ***The student is expected to:***

- Be responsible for their learning.
- Be in class on time.
- To do all assignments.
- Put in their best effort.
- Seek additional help when needed and ask questions.
- Follow all classroom and district rules.
- Not be distracted by their iPad.
- Cell phones, air pods/headphones and smart watches will be left in lockers.
- Help keep a positive learning environment.
- Students will be safe and follow all safety rules during labs.

### **Teacher Expectations:**

#### ***The teacher is expected to:***

- Provide efficient and reliable instruction.
- Grade in a timely manner and update Power School weekly.
- Correct behaviors that are inappropriate for the classroom setting.
- Provide additional help or instruction when needed.
- Be in communication with parent/guardian.
- Be professional.
- Help keep a positive learning environment.

### **Parent/Guardian Expectations:**

#### ***The parent/guardian is expected to:***

- Be supportive of the student's learning.
- Work out any issues that arise with the teacher and/or student.
- Be in communication with the teacher.
- Help keep a positive learning environment.

## **Signatures:**

**Student's:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher's:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Info:**

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_