**Honors Physics Teacher: George Bischoff** George.bischoff@carteretk12.org

Website: <https://mrbischoffscience1819.weebly.com>

My email is fed directly to my cell phone, so response can be relatively quick, depending upon the hour of the request…I usually turn it off somewhere between 10-1030pm, on 530-6am, so the question sent at 230am will not typically have an answer until later that morning. I will respond on weekends, but, when on the water, my phone is locked in a dry-box and is usually ignored during that time.

Telephone number available upon request. All students (parents optional) should sign on to Remind, as this is how quick updates, many assignments, and general information will disseminate. School email, as well as my website, will see frequent use so the successful student will need to be vigilantly checking these on a regular basis.

**Text:** Physics: Principles and Problems, Zitzewitz, et al, 2005

Ancillary materials will be discussed in class.

**Course Description:** Honors Physics is an interesting course changing our perspective on how we see our world, looking for reasons and issues with the movement of matter. It is a course involving the stretching of our thinking, followed by some mathematics to support our understanding.

**The value of taking a physics course:**

* For personal satisfaction and the challenge!
* Because you love science!
* Because taking these may be what gets you accepted into your university of choice when someone else does not…it distinguishes you from the pack.
* To improve your understanding of the physical universe, and our place in it.

**Course Standards:** The NC standard course of study is our roadmap, utilizing the unpacked standards, but we always work at adding more where we can, as it both enriches the topic and increases its relevance to our daily lives. Site: <http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/docs/curriculum/science/scos/support-tools/unpacking/science/physics.pdf>

**Leadership:** students will be expected to work together effectively in small groups for completion of their lab work; instructor observation of this will be reflected in some of the lab grading.

**Materials needed:**

* Notebook: I will be using a bound notebook (composition book style) and taping/stapling materials as we move along. It will be your choice to either do the same or keep a loose-leaf such that both class notes and handouts stay in correct order and maintain that integrity over the semester
* Pens: blue ink required. The instructor read a study last summer indicating that taking notes/writing in blue ink specifically and significantly helped recall. This does work
* Other colored pens, highlighters, etc. to annotate notes…this helps greatly for clarity in details, in all areas of endeavor
* Quality graphing calculator
* Other items as they arise.

**Expectations**: as an expansion from my general webpage, these are much more important for success in the physics classroom:

* Regular attendance. While this might seem obvious, there is usually someone who thinks that this is optional. All conversations on our topics are likely to generate some illumination for participants, so “being here” is a large part of progress.
* Work. Another obvious point. Due when expected, make-up work should also be timely. We will discuss in class, but do not ever think that class stopped because you were absent. Late work will be accepted at the instructor’s discretion, and any credit is optional at that point.
* Readings should be complete prior to class, so that discussions and lab work can commence without wasted effort. You are insulting your classmates’ efforts if you do this.
* Group work does not mean one person does it all. I do watch and ask as I see groups work.
* Ask questions! (As per website) I am not clairvoyant…I do not want to be able to read your minds! Let me know if something is unclear. If it is something that requires us to have a discussion, email/text/call.

**Cheating and Plagiarism:** Remember the Consequences Contract. Plagiarism is an academic crime. If I catch someone cheating, local administration will confirm severity of censure.

**Make-up Work**: it is the student’s responsibility to contact the teacher before or after class to discuss any missed materials. It is preferred for this to take place prior to the absence if it is planned.

**Grading Policy:** grades will be calculated using the following weighting:

* Tests: 50%
* Quizzes: 30%
* Lab work: 20%

**Homework**: Mandatory, and will be located in one of the above categories at the discretion of the instructor. Quizzes may follow to ascertain level of both preparation and understanding on the part of the students. ***Overarching expectation, on all work of all types, is that students will do their best at all times!***

**Suggestions for success:**

* Focus in class—nothing beats paying attention to all
* As in college, note where your grade comes from…do well
* All sciences are inherently vocabulary rich…know your language
* Read! Read! Read!
* Use all resources given
* Be organized
* Pre-read all labs…know what you need to be safe, and what to be on the lookout for as the lab progresses