AP C Physics – Course Description and Personal Goals Contract Mr. Buchanan

The College Board defines and certifies three different AP Physics courses.

- AP B Physics
- AP C Mechanics
- AP C Electricity and Magnetism

The B course is designed to be the equivalent of the first two semesters of college physics for non-science majors. It is a conceptual level course that does not use higher level math (calculus.) Even though the DASD does not recognize our Honors Physics program as an AP course, our Honors Physics I plus Honors Physics II courses combined essentially constitute the B course. Our Honors courses do not specifically prep our student to take the B exam, however students who take both courses and use an AP study guide to prep themselves, would be quite capable of getting a good score on the B exam.

The course we call AP physics at the DASD is certified to be a combination of both AP C Mechanics and AP C Electricity and Magnetism. It is designed to be the equivalent to the first two semesters of college physics for science majors. It covers the same content that physics, engineering, chemistry, math and most other science majors are required to take their first year in college. It is more in-depth than the B course and it utilizes higher level math (calculus.) It is a demanding course that culminates with students taking the two AP C Exams in May. High scores on those exams can earn students as many as 8 college credit hours.

To put the course into perspective, only approximately 10,000 of the top students nationally take both C exams in any given year and only approximately 2,000 receive a score of 5 on both exams. In 2006, there were less than 200 students in Pennsylvania who got 5s on both exams.

It should also be pointed out just how valuable a high score on these exams is. Many colleges give students up to 8 credit hours for a score of 5 on both exams, but that varies depending upon the institution. Community colleges generally give credit for scores of 4 or 5 on either exam. Highly competitive colleges may or may not give credit at all. For example, MIT only gives credit to students who score 5 and only if it is on both exams. The AP credit policy for many colleges and universities is available at http://collegesearch.collegeboard.com/apcreditpolicy/index.jsp.

As the teacher, I am committed to helping every student who takes my course, prepare for both C exams and get a top score of 5 on both C exams. Plainly stated, my goal is that every student who takes my course will take and get a 5 on both C exams. Key to my success, is assuring that every student who takes the course understands just how demanding it is and assuring that they all "buy into the program." It is not in any student's best interest to take this course unless they are 100% committed to it. Nor is it in the best interest of the other students in the class or myself to have them in the class.

The following page is a combination of a worksheet and goals contract that is designed to help students decide for themselves what their personal goals for the course are. I require every student to complete the contract, sign it and return it to me. The intent is to help students make an educated decision as to whether or not the course is right for them. It is my hope that every student who completes the contract will "buy into the program" and set high goals for themselves. It is also my hope that students who are not prepared to commit 100% will decide that now and not go through the course with anything less than a personal commitment to take and get a top score on both C exams. I ask that students complete the form honestly are realistically and that they be prepared to follow through with their stated goals over the course of the school year.

AP C Physics – Personal Goals Contract

Guiding Questions

Are you prepared to come to class every day with a positive "I am going to work hard today" attitude?	☐ **Yes**	☐ **No**
Are you prepared to spend every class period actively involved in coursework for the duration of the period?	☐ **Yes**	☐ **No**
Are you prepared to spend an average of one hour a day (Monday – Friday) outside class studying and working on physics assignments?	☐ **Yes**	☐ **No**
Are you prepared to spend an average of two hours every weekend studying and working on physics assignments?	☐ **Yes**	☐ **No**
Are you prepared to work with all the other students in the class as a team to everyone's mutual benefit?	☐ **Yes**	☐ **No**
Are you prepared to seek help when you first need it rather than wait until the day before the test?	☐ **Yes**	☐ **No**
Are you prepared to complete all assignments to the best of your ability and submit them on time?	☐ **Yes**	☐ **No**
Are you prepared to work on assignments continually and not wait until the last minute to do them?	☐ **Yes**	☐ **No**

Review your answers to the above questions and ask yourself the following. Can I make this level of commitment to one course? What about my other commitments and priorities in life? Is this course important enough to me personally to make this level of commitment?

Do you plan to take the AP C Mechanics exam in May?				☐ **Yes**	☐ **No**
What is the minimum score you will be working towards?	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	☐ 5
Do you plan to take the AP C Electricity and Magnetism exam in May?				☐ **Yes**	☐ **No**
What is the minimum score you will be working towards?	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	☐ 5

I am committed to follow through with the preceding. The following is a brief statement, in my own words, explaining my goals for my AP Physics course.

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please print two copies of this page and sign them. Keep one for yourself and give one to Mr. Buchanan.