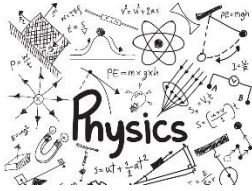


# WAPPINGERS

Central School District



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April 1, 2020

Hello Physics Students and Parents/Guardians,

I hope you're all doing okay!!! I know this is a challenging time for everyone, and I realize that you're receiving emails from several teachers today. I'll try to keep things short and informative.

1. I've taught online through DCC, so I'm not worried about this. We'll make it work! I'm trying to give students some flexibility, so they everyone can learn as best as possible during this difficult time.
2. Most of my future announcements and assignments will go through Google Classroom. All students should already be enrolled in GC.
3. If you ever have questions, please contact me. Email ([ian.freedman@wcsdny.org](mailto:ian.freedman@wcsdny.org)) is probably the best way. Students may also talk with me live during Office Hours which will be posted in Google Classroom. Students or parents are welcome to contact me to set up other times for live conversation if they want.
4. I will post an opening-day assignment on Thursday night or Friday on Google Classroom. It will be due on Friday (**the same day!**). It should take fewer than 10 minutes for students to do. The purpose of this is mainly to make sure my students are active on Google Classroom.
5. On Thursday night or Friday, I will also post a list of assignments for the following week. In general, I avoid giving assignments that are due the same day or the next day.
6. **TOMORROW** (Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup>) I will have a **short** live Q&A video chat from 2:00-2:15pm to test Google Meet. If you're free, I encourage you to stop in. The URL link is [meet.google.com/jap-yzgt-ghn](https://meet.google.com/jap-yzgt-ghn). You need to be logged into Google to enter.
7. Students should have been working on certain review material over the past couple of weeks. (a) Regents and Honors Physics students were supposed to do the Regents Questions at the end of the Waves packet. (b) AP Physics students were supposed to start reviewing for the AP Physics C Mechanics exam. I will discuss this review material in Google Classroom next week.
8. I'm planning to offer live instruction a couple times per week. This is optional but highly recommended. Hopefully it will also be recorded for students who cannot attend. Each session will be about 30 minutes.
9. I'm not certain about grading policies or practices. The district has yet to make decisions about grading. More information will be announced in the future.

10. Regents and Honors Physics: I do not know what the district or NYSED intends to do at the end of the year as a “final exam.” Hopefully NYSED will make an announcement sometime in the near future about the Regents exams. As of now, our directive per NYSED is to continue teaching the regular course content. More information can be found at [www.nysed.gov/coronavirus](http://www.nysed.gov/coronavirus).
11. AP Physics C students have received several announcements on Google Classroom. As of now, the College Board intends to give online AP exams, which will be 45-minutes long and will only contain free-response questions. They plan to release more information on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Students may cancel their AP tests and receive a full refund if they so desire. I recommend this option for the AP Physics C Electricity & Magnetism test but not the Mechanics test. College Board is also streaming review sessions on a daily basis to help students prepare for their tests.
12. If students are missing assignments from earlier in Quarter 3, I will post some options next week.
13. If students have concerns about being able to conduct online learning, please contact me as soon as possible, so we can work out a plan.
14. When fighting a pandemic like COVID-19, science is power. I strongly encourage students to stay abreast of the current news and scientific data regarding this virus. My goal is not to scare students – it’s actually exactly the opposite. The more we know, the more we realize that with proper precautions and patience we can and will make it through this ordeal, and hopefully develop tools to better fight off similar pandemics in the future. More information can be found all over the Web, but I particularly like: [www.nytimes.com/news-event/coronavirus](http://www.nytimes.com/news-event/coronavirus) and [www.washingtonpost.com/coronavirus](http://www.washingtonpost.com/coronavirus) which are free to access.
15. Although many people, like myself, are able to work from home, this is not the case for everyone. Some people (doctors, nurses, etc.) are on the front lines in fighting COVID-19. Others (supermarket and restaurant workers, farmers, postal employees, suppliers, etc.) put themselves at risk to provide essential services. Many others are facing lost jobs and financial instability. Plus, many of us are helping to care for kids and family members in our homes. We also all have friends and family who are struggling as a result of this pandemic, and we feel bad that we can’t do more to support them.

**Thank you all** for everything you’ve done and sacrificed to combat the spread of this virus! Although we might feel isolated, this is a challenge that faces our entire society. By working cooperatively we’ll make it through together. The bottom line is this crisis is affecting us all, but often in different ways. For this reason, we teachers are trying to maintain some flexibility. We’re continuing to teach online because we think it’s essential for our students to continue learning, but we all also realize that physical and psychological health needs to be a priority.

JJHS and the District have put several resources into place to help our community members. This includes access to free & reduced lunches, technology and mental health resources. If any students want support with mental health, I suggest looking at the teacher pages for our school psychologists and social workers and/or contacting one of our school psychologists or social workers. (Heather Dahl & Elizabeth Rizzi are our two school psychologists.)

Stay strong. Be well!

Ian Freedman  
John Jay Senior HS, Physics Teacher  
Science Olympiad Coach, NYS Master Teacher