



## Barack Obama Academy of International Studies

515 N. Highland Avenue | Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
Phone: 412-529-5980 | Fax: 412-622-5983

Greetings parents and students and welcome to IBDP Physics! It is my hope that this class will educate, inspire, and encourage your child to gain a greater appreciation for how Physics plays a major role in our everyday lives, community and the world at large. I am Mrs. Phyllis Roberts, your child's IBDP Physics teacher here at the Obama Academy of International Studies. Attached to this letter is the course description. Please review it and discuss it with your child. At the bottom of this letter, I ask that you please provide phone numbers or email addresses so I can get in contact with you and discuss any information you feel I should know about your child. Additionally, please sign the second page of this letter and have your child return it to me by Friday September 23, 2016.

This is a very rigorous course which will require a lot of dedication and hard work not only from me but from your child as well. Parental involvement is strongly encouraged. Therefore, if your child is having difficulty, please let me know immediately so that I can provide additional assistance to address your child's academic needs. If you have any questions about the course or the expectations, please feel free to contact me at (412) 529-2277 or email [proberts1@pghboe.net](mailto:proberts1@pghboe.net). I look forward to working with you to ensure that child has a successful year in IBDP Physics.

Sincerely,

*Phyllis Roberts, M.A.T.*  
Phyllis Roberts

Approved \_\_\_\_\_, Principal.

  
Dr. Wayne Walters





# Barack Obama Academy of International Studies

515 N. Highland Avenue | Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
Phone: 412-529-5980 | Fax: 412-622-5983

**Student's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

In order for me to maintain contact with parents or the guardians of the students, please list your telephone number and email address below. Please include both a day and evening telephone number, and please indicate which method of contact you prefer.

**Parent/Guardian Phone (daytime)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Phone (evening):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:**

I have read the class outline for Mrs. Roberts IBDP Physics class. I understand and accept the class policies, and I will abide by them. I understand that I am expected to apply myself to the course and that I will take responsibility for my own actions while in this class.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please Print Your Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Parent/Guardian Signature:**

I have read and understand the class procedure for Mrs. Roberts IBDP Physics class. I agree that my child will abide by these guidelines, and I understand that my child is expected to apply him or herself and take responsibility for his or her own actions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please Print Your Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





**IBDP Physics Course Description and Expectations**

**Teacher: Mrs. Phyllis Roberts**

**Location: Room 335**

**Phone: (412) 529-2277**

**Email: [proberts1@pghboe.net](mailto:proberts1@pghboe.net)**

**Office hours: QRT and afterschool (2:50-3:50 M-Th)**

**Course Description**

The IBDP Physics course is designed to be taught over 2 years. During the first year of this course, students will study a broad range of physics topics which include but are not limited to: Measurements and uncertainties, mechanics, circular motion and gravitation and thermal physics. The second year, they will study waves, electricity and magnetism, energy production, atomic, nuclear and particle physics and selected option topics (i.e. astrophysics, relativity). The ultimate goal for students is not only that they understand key topics but apply their understanding of those concepts to innovative situations, perform experiments related to those topics, demonstrate how to solve problems mathematically and ultimately score well on the IBDP Physics exam to obtain the IB Diploma.

**Grades:**

Category	Percentage of Total Grade
Assessments	25%
Class Assignments	25%
Class Participation	20%
Homework	10%
Writing (Labs/Projects)	20%

The letter grade will depend on the following scale:

<b>A =</b> 90-100%	<b>B =</b> 89-80%	<b>C =</b> 79-70%	<b>D =</b> 69-60%	<b>E =</b> 59-below
-----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	------------------------

**Class Expectations:**

**Materials:** The following items are *required* for this class each day:

- Binder or notebook, Agenda Book, Pencils/pens
- Scientific Calculator (this can include a TI-83 calculator from math class)  
*(caution: if purchasing a scientific calculator any version will suffice. TI calculators are expensive; some math classes with distribute them.)*
- Textbooks (which can be left in class if needed)
- 2 – 2 pocket portfolio folders

**Suggested** items for this class include:

- Ruler / Protractor
- Colored pencils or Crayons



- **Class Assignments:** The readings, class assignments, and problems sets will be distributed daily. Students are expected to have their books in class and be able to work on the assignments while in class. **NO EXTRA CREDIT** will be given for missed assignments. It is the student's responsibility to complete his/her work. **Students have one week to makeup missed class assignments.**
- **Class Participation:** Students are expected to contribute to the educational experience in this class. This not only enables students to get clarity on concepts that might be difficult but it enhances their knowledge of the subject area as well.
- **Homework:** Problem sets are assigned daily. Students can work together on the problem sets, but each student must turn in his or her own work (please keep in mind that there is a difference between working with each other and copying from each other). Students are expected to show work for all of the problems while a list of answers will earn no credit. Students should plan ahead regarding absences and know that they can email work if needed. **HOMEWORK may not be submitted LATE for any reason—PLAN AHEAD.** Completing the problems sets on a regular basis is the best way to prepare for the IB exam.
- **Labs:** Students will engage in many labs throughout the year. However, students must type all formal labs according to the lab format. All labs are graded based on the IB lab rubric. Students will have one week to turn in formal lab write-ups. **Once a due date is established, LATE LABS will be 50%.** (Note: IB expects students to complete 60 hours of lab work. By not submitting a lab, students run the risk of not satisfying the lab portion of the portfolio and thus not being allowed to take the test.) Students will need to keep every lab after it is scored and returned to them for the entire year. Each student should keep these labs in a binder (1/2" rings). Labs are an important part of this course as they comprise 20% of the class grade; in addition, their cumulative score accounts for 24% of the official IB exam score. Students may choose to re-do a lab, not for class credit, but in hopes of earning a higher score for their overall IB score.
- **Assessments:** Students will have tests in Physics at the end of each core topic. Quizzes will usually occur once a week. Students should plan to study extensively for tests/quizzes as they comprise 25% of the overall grade for the course. Tests/quizzes will usually be comprised of multiple choice, problem solving, and explain/essay-type questions. **Students have one week to makeup missed tests/quizzes.**
- **Absences/Tardies:** Students are responsible to make-up any missed work when not in class due to the nature of the class assignments that are due on a weekly basis. Students should plan ahead in the event of an absence. Excessive absences/tardies will result in disciplinary action from an administrator and may be reflected in your overall grade.
- **Academic Integrity:** Academic dishonesty is not acceptable student behavior. Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism and copying another's work to be presented as your own. During the course of the year, students will work in groups for class assignments and lab work. Students need to maintain the highest academic standards while working in groups and each student must submit their own work. For example, students are expected to complete labs in their own unique manner and **NOT** submit work identical to a fellow group member. IB is very clear that all scientific work be of the student's best efforts. Any student who commits or facilitates academic dishonesty will be subjected to earning a failing grade on the assignment. There are no exceptions.