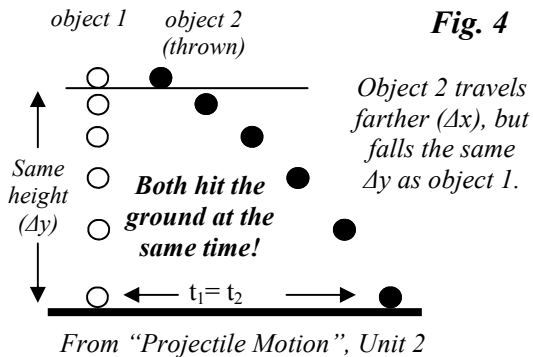


# Getting Help —

## Notes—

I don't expect students to remember everything that I do in class, so I have written easy-to-read notes that include explanations, examples, and graphics. Students that learn to read the notes have no trouble with the class. Everything I expect them to know is in the notes. Students that fail the class don't read the notes OR don't read them well.



## Website —

My website ([cstephenmurray.com](http://cstephenmurray.com)) has many resources to help your student conquer physics.

**Interactive study helps.** There are hundreds of matching and multiple choice quizzes to help with memorizing vocabulary and learn concepts. Students can practice these at home or use the computers in the classroom. If students work through these study helps they WILL learn the topics. Don't believe that your student has worked all of the study helps and still doesn't know anything.

**Doing the study helps is not a substitute for reading the notes or doing the homework!**

There are study helps for all of the topics we cover in class, but not all of the concepts. Your students MUST work and rework homework assignments!

**Notes and Examples.** These are problems I have worked in class or that I have put on the website to give more help. Students should write the problem and work the problem by themselves, and then check the answer.

## Songs—

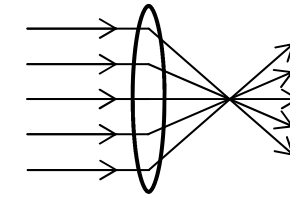
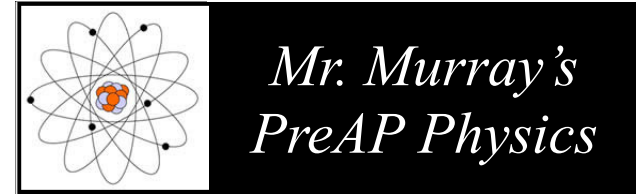
I write songs to help students learn both physics and TAKS (biology and chemistry). There are five songs on the website and many other I share in class. Students need to pay attention and try to memorize the songs. They will be surprised how much of these lyrics will come back to them during tests!



## Tutoring—

I tutor almost everyday (unless I am called away for a meeting, of course). I start tutoring at 7:30 a.m. and tutor for at least an hour after school.

I realize that the students are busy, but if they are having trouble they need to make time to come in.



Parallel light rays passing thru a convex lens.

[www.cstephenmurray.com](http://www.cstephenmurray.com)

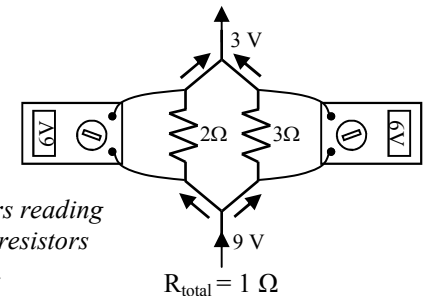
## Includes:

Homework

Study Helps

Songs

Email: [stephen.murray@gcisd.net](mailto:stephen.murray@gcisd.net)  
(link on website)



## Physics is the study of forces and energy.

Physics is the most basic of all sciences, yet can be difficult because it requires students to look carefully and describe everyday phenomena scientifically. In PreAP Physics, we expect students to have a solid foundation in basic algebra. Those that have shaky math skills need to get help soon or will struggle all year.

## Materials—

Pencils; 3 ring notebook; scientific calculator (preferably graphing); graph paper; clear plastic ruler; protractor (circular, if possible).

## PreAP Grading—

### Homework—10% (but essential)

**There is homework due EVERYDAY—** no exceptions. If your student claims they don't have homework— it is wishful thinking, but not true.



**Homework is found on the website at: [www.cstephenmurray.com](http://www.cstephenmurray.com).**

I write the homework AFTER class and post it to the website. This ensures the homework responds to exactly what we did in class and questions that arise. The website makes it easy for you to see what is due and prepares students for college, where everything is online. Should your printer run out of ink have your student write down the answers. If your Internet goes down or you don't have Internet, I print a limited number of copies. Students should come see me after school or early in the morning, if they need one.

All of the information necessary to pass the tests is on the homework. **No student has ever failed my class that has completed the homework themselves.** If your student gets help with their homework, they need to rework the homework themselves.

**I teach through homework**, taking time to reexplain hard topics and presenting new topics. So if students don't do their homework, they will fall behind. Being only 10% of their grade, it can be tempting to skip the homework. However, homework in this class is essential. It is VERY rare for a student to succeed without doing the homework.

### Late Homework—

Life happens, so late work is possible, but discouraged. To make up homework students

- must come during tutoring hours
- must read a chapter in the book for each late homework (it takes time, yet is educational);
- can only earn a maximum of a 50.

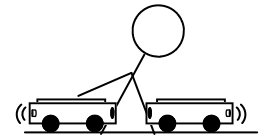
### Tutoring:

**Starting at 7:30 a.m.  
After school  
Everyday.**

### Quizzes—15%

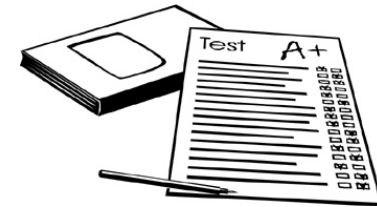
There will be quizzes before each test. They check understanding and push students toward the test. Quizzes can be retested after tutoring.

### Labs—30%



Labs are where physics comes alive. Unlike other sciences we can prove almost everything in the lab. Being almost as much as tests, lab grades are obviously important. Some points are for participation. The rest come from a simple lab quiz, where students prove they were paying attention in the lab. As with all other parts of the class, lab quizzes are designed to push students toward the test and are retestable.

### Tests—45%



In this day of high-stakes testing, it is important that students learn to retain information long

term. There are few surprises on the tests: all the concepts will be taught on the homework. However, as a PreAP class we are preparing them for AP Physics, one of the hardest AP tests. We try to push students to more challenging materials and thinking beyond what we have showed them previously.

### Retesting -

I understand that students need second chances. If a student fails a test, they may retest after they complete all of their homework (usually the culprit) OR rework the last two or three homeworks with me during tutoring hours. I've found that those that fail tests didn't work the homework themselves or didn't rework them before the test.