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## Welcome to SPASH PHYSICS

History: 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of 1996-1997 I was assigned to teach Astronomy for my first time as a first year teacher at SPASH after 16 years at Assumption H. S. teaching mainly Computer Science and some Physics/Math, and 4 years previous at Pittsville H. S. teaching Physics/Math. The first semester Astronomy that year was a very small class and whenever I saw them they seemed bored. At the time I was already teaching two English as a Second Language Science classes, two Elem. Alg. I the same period, and I was new to the Physics program teaching the zero hour Physics. Finding out that almost everyone in the science department had taught Astronomy (at one time or another) but preferred teaching their Biology/Physics/Chemistry/Geology I figured Astronomy was no one's first choice. That's when I realized with a lot of help from above (I am a Christian), my Astronomy students and NASA classes (over a handful of summers) Astronomy could be a desired class at SPASH. That first class started with me seeing a contract grading sheet from the alternative school that set up a point rubric needed for each grade. With the new grading system in hand and students willing to help me figure out ways they learn best to get points toward the contract rubric the course had its spark. Within a few years SPASH ASTRONOMY had nine full sections of Astronomy in one school year. When two Physics teachers retired simultaneously I was needed elsewhere but the new young science staff has kept SPASH ASTRONOMY going with five sections again this school year. I am so excited to get the chance to teach a section of Astronomy again after four and a half years of being full time Physics/AP Physics B & C and fill my webpage with some of the great activities just before I retire at the end of this school year. My love of mathematics has been valuable tool to teaching Physics, and my love of Physics has been a valuable tool to teaching Astronomy, with Astronomy is at the apex of this learning pyramid. Astronomy has been an invaluable aid to me in my personal life and will continue to be a hobby until the day I die. Future Astronomy science staff hopefully will keep the Astronomy spirit touch lit for centuries to come.

Note: When I looked for something cool to say at the end of an unbelievable lesson what I was given was GNATS (Go Now And Teach Someone) where the students realize they can gain points toward the class by becoming teachers and passing on certain material learned to friends and family. Like a chain letter hopefully the material could be eventually be passed on to everyone on Earth. Instead it seems like I'll be remembered for the #13 as early on I realized that the sun travels through 13 regions of the sky and NOT twelve as the Astrologers of the time claimed. Since then 13 has haunted me (size 13 shoes, born in 52 (4 X 13), 169 cm to my eyes and 13 cm higher to the top of my head, climb 13 feet up to room 2340, greet me with a smile exactly 13 m from the front of the classroom, ..., even retiring the semester with 13:13:13:13:13:13:13 (sec:min:hrs:day:month:year respectfully of the millennium); with my last full year being 2013 and my first full year retired 2015 (evenly divisible by 13). My son chose a second favorite number for me (9) and 9 X 13 = 117 and 117 X 2 = 234 and 234 X 10 = 2340 my room number. With my password of a smile, my webpage ended up being http://www.smile2340.com

EXPECTATIONS: Just arrive with a strong desire to enjoy learning each day and take that learning spark and let it grow within you and others. Your mind is a gift, use it, and pass on the knowledge to enhance your life and the life of others. Let's get started.

GRADING: Everyone has different gifts and different ways of learning so this grading rubric gives you a variety of ways to earn points toward your desired grade goal. The grade is important to society but what you put into it and what you learn is priceless.

| Grade | Quarter | Grade | Q Pts. | Grade | Q. Pts. | Grade | Q.   |
|-------|---------|-------|--------|-------|---------|-------|------|
|       | Pts     |       |        |       |         |       | Pts. |
| Α     | 1600 +  | B+    | 1400+  | C+    | 1100+   | D+    | 800+ |
| A-    | 1500 +  | В     | 1300+  | С     | 1000+   | D     | 700+ |
|       |         | B-    | 1200+  | C-    | 900+    | D-    | 600+ |
|       |         |       |        |       |         | F     | 0+   |

The multiplicity of ways to earn points each quarter:

| Bold Terms        | Figures/Tables     | GNATS                | Take Home Test     | Calendar Italics    |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 300 pts./quarter  | 300 pts./quarter   | 200 pts./quarter     | (100 pts./test)    | (300 pts./quarter)  |
| Each Chapter has  | You may prefer     | Earn up to 50 pts    | A take home test   | Throughout the      |
| bold terms        | pictures to words  | (10 pts. /individual | is given about     | class calendar are  |
| throughout that   | since a picture is | taught) by           | every other week.  | space happenings,   |
| you may write     | worth 1000 words.  | teaching             | You may use        | birthdays of        |
| down the term     | Study the          | friends/family       | anything but       | famous space        |
| followed by its   | figure/chart, read | certain cool WOW     | another person to  | people, etc. These  |
| definition for 1  | its caption and    | BIG PICTURE          | aid you taking the | are usually         |
| pt./term. Count   | write F13.26 (for  | concepts taught      | test. The test is  | underlined and in   |
| them for me       | figure chap. 13    | you. Outline what    | due one week       | italics (10-30 pts. |
| please. You may   | number 26) and     | you taught them      | from when they     | each) Look them     |
| be orally quizzed | briefly explain    | and have them        | are given. Enjoy   | up and do a short   |
| on some of them.  | what you learned   | sign their name      | learning more or   | report on who       |
|                   | for it.            | with a short         | showing what       | they are or what    |
|                   |                    | comment under        | you've learned     | they are. For 10    |
|                   |                    | the outline.         | biweekly.          | additional pts.     |
|                   |                    |                      |                    | Share with class    |
|                   |                    |                      |                    | on that day.        |

| Videos              | Online learning      | Class Work            | Observations        | Miscellaneous        |  |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--|
| (300 pts./quarter)  | (300 pts./quarter)   | (400 pts./quarter)    | (400 pts./quarter)  | (400 pts./quarter)   |  |
| Check out           | You may find         | Throughout the        | Self observations   | Maybe you have       |  |
| Astronomy related   | online learning      | course, activities    | (up to 50 pts.) and | another way that     |  |
| videos from a       | tools like Khan      | will be done that     | class observations  | suits you for        |  |
| library (SPASH has  | Academy,             | will be worth up to   | (up to 150 pts.)    | learning we          |  |
| a huge collection). | YouTube, Phet        | 20 pts. Per day if    | will take place     | haven't listed       |  |
| Watch the video     | Simulations, etc.    | completed. Group      | throughout the      | here. Just let me    |  |
| and when over       | to learn from. If    | presentations,        | course. UWSP        | know before you      |  |
| briefly write down  | this is for you just | games, labs, in       | observations can    | start and go for it. |  |
| what you learned.   | learn it, write      | class video clips     | also be done. The   | It is your desire to |  |
| Include the length  | down what it was,    | (star hustlers,       | UWSP planetarium    | be a lifetime        |  |
| (minutes) of the    | briefly what you     | movie clips,          | has several shows   | learner we wish to   |  |
| video at the top of | learned, and how     | movies, you tube      | per semester on     | feed. Thanks for     |  |
| the page. About a   | many minutes it      | videos, etc.). I will | Sundays also.       | coming up with       |  |
| pt. /minute with    | took you. Happy      | remind you at the     | Information on      | more ways to         |  |
| 10 pts. min.        | learning.            | time. You come;       | these will follow.  | improve SPASH        |  |
| /video.             |                      | you learn, how        |                     | ASTRONOMY in         |  |
|                     |                      | about that!           |                     | the future!          |  |