**Honors Physics in Davis School District**

**Purpose**

The purpose of creating district wide expectations for honors courses in science is to help students and parents be better informed when making scheduling decisions, to create consistency in honors experiences across the district, increase the depth and rigor to which students are exposed in science, and to better prepare students for AP and college experiences. It is strongly encouraged that students, parents, teachers, counselors, and administrators familiarize themselves with the expectations outlined in the honors science curriculum in order to make the best decisions for the school and student.

**Definition**

Honors courses are more challenging than standard level courses in order to foster growth for advanced learners. These courses have some additional content in their course of study as well as more strenuous cognitive tasks and skills. Often these tasks could include independent scientific research in the form of research projects, inquiry projects, and/or science fair projects in order to provide students with an authentic honors scientific experience.

Inherently honors courses are those with standards written in a progressive nature and build upon prior knowledge and experiences. Please be judicious and realistic when setting expectations for yourself and your student.

**Roles and Expectations**

**Student’s Role** (includes but is not limited to)

 Students enrolled in honors level courses will:

1. Be expected and willing to take greater responsibility for their learning.
2. Meet the challenges of an advanced level of learning through high quality work.
3. Be aware Secondary 2 math skills are used throughout this course.
4. Maintain a high level of engagement while in the classroom during both group and independent work.
5. Dedicate adequate time to course work outside of school time regardless of other educational or extracurricular activities.
6. Be willing to fully engage in independent scientific research experiences.
7. Upon successful completion of honors Physics, seriously consider enrollment in AP science classes to further one’s science knowledge and experience.

**Parent’s Role** (includes but is not limited to)

 Parents/Guardians of the advanced learner will:

1. Be aware of the requirements and expectations of an Honors Level Course.
2. Support the student in performing at an advanced level of learning through high quality work.
3. Ensure the student is prepared, on-time, present daily, and ready to learn.
4. Expect student to dedicate adequate time to course work outside of school time.
5. Support the student in independent science research.

**Teacher’s Role** (includes but is not limited to)

 Teachers of an honors level course will:

1. Possess the skills, knowledge and disposition to develop and implement an honors curriculum to support the growth of advanced learners.
2. Use a variety of classroom instructional strategies to engage advanced learners.
3. Provide opportunities for students to engage in independent scientific research experiences.
4. Build upon and use Vertical Alignment skills mastered in junior high.

**School/Administrator’s Role** (includes but not limited to)

 To support honors level instruction, principals will:

1. Assign honors level courses to teachers who possess the skills, knowledge and disposition to develop and implement an honors curriculum to support the growth of advanced learners.
2. Require teachers to use the honors level course rubric, and honors curriculum to define honors level instruction.
3. Support teacher’s needs for supplies and professional development.

**Facility Requirements**

 Facilities for honors level courses will:

1. Support the implementation of curriculum standards.
2. Provide a lab area with any special equipment, technology, or materials that are necessary to facilitate the honors level course.