

LASER SAFETY AND GENERAL CLASSROOM RULES
Photonics Dept., Tantasqua Regional High School
Fiskdale, MA 01518



Will the lasers we use in class burn me or cause eye damage?

No, the diode and Helium-Neon lasers we use are not sufficiently powerful to cause permanent damage to skin or eyes. **HOWEVER, if aimed directly (or reflected) into your eyes, they may dazzle you, annoy you, or temporarily alter your vision in the same way that a camera flash does!** Consequently, the following rules **must** be obeyed and will be strictly enforced:

- NEVER AIM THE LASER BEAM DIRECTLY INTO YOUR EYES OR THE EYES OF **ANYONE ELSE**.
- BLOCK OFF LASER BEAMS SO THEY CANNOT EXTEND BEYOND THE LIMITS OF THE INDIVIDUAL LABORATORY STATIONS.
- KEEP BEAMS AS LOW AS POSSIBLE WITH RESPECT TO THE WORKSTATION SURFACE.
- COVER OR REMOVE ANY HIGHLY REFLECTING OBJECTS IN YOUR WORK AREA. THIS INCLUDES 'SHINEY' JEWELRY AND NECKLACES.

The Staff will be enforcing a “high sticking” rule similar to that used in hockey!!

- If the rules above are violated or a Staff member observes a laser beam “traveling” around the room above chest height, the student will be given **TWO** warnings.
- **There is no third warning!!** Your laser will be taken and you will receive a zero for the day (and possibly the project!).

A word about lasers, optics and other photonic equipment....

The optical apparatus we use is expensive and, while not delicate, is perhaps not quite as durable as other things we use in class. Please treat the equipment with respect so that it will be usable by other students. Be careful not to drop laser pointers. Handle optics by their edges, and do not touch the surfaces of gratings, mirrors or filters, etc. **Remember: you are here to learn; if you have a problem or concern, ASK!**