

# Physics: Testing roller coasters for science

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"What that does is tells us how much energy is lost through friction," said Smith, explaining the purpose of the lab.

Part of the calculation is the time it takes for the marble to travel to the end of the tube.

Ninth-grader Gage

Scheet and eighth-grader Dylan Hendrickson taped their coaster to the wall in the hallway outside the science room.

Scheet had to improvise, writing the times down on his hand all the while trying to catch the marble before it escaped and bounced across the floor.

"I like the trip at the end and also the class because it's advanced math and science," Gage said, adding those are the classes he likes the most.

"Yeah, they're my favorite subjects, too," Dylan chimed in.

Smith said teaching the class has added a different

element to what is familiar territory for him and his fellow teachers.

"We have a pretty good understanding of the math," he said. "I still have a hard time talking in front of people. This has been a good challenge for me."

Once free to experience the roller coasters at Silver-

wood, Smith said he won't be thinking about math or physics.

"At the end of class, whenever I come home, I do reflect on how much I've learned," he said. "But whenever I'm riding, I don't think about that. I'm there to have fun, not doing any more homework."



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer  
**Gage Scheet wrote times down on his hand.**

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**But who would have access to those online notices?** 62% of U.S. seniors (65 and older) have no internet access, and a third of those who **DO** have access are still limited to dialup.\*

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**Keep public notices in the newspaper!**

