

### **Course Description**

Forensics is a semester course designed to engage students using a creative, problem solving and inquiry based approach. This course will incorporate multidisciplinary instruction using topics from biology, chemistry, physics, earth science and math. Students will apply their knowledge in these topics under laboratory supervision and throughout the process of solving forensics based cases.

### **1. Course Expectations**

❖ Come to school/class! **Attendance is crucial** for success in Forensic Science, virtually and in-person!

\*Please Note: certain lab activities cannot be made up due to logistical issues if absent for in person instruction

❖ Students are expected to arrive in class prepared. Students should bring their notebook with any required reading materials/worksheets to class, as well as something to write with.

❖ Students are expected to be courteous and behave in a manner that will not distract others from learning. There will be extensive group work, and in order to get the most out of the course you will need to follow directions, multi-task, and draw conclusions in the "chaos" that is around you.

❖ All students are expected to make-up missed work. If you are absent, you have missed valuable notes, and there is an even stronger chance that you will have missed part of or an entire lab activity. These **MUST** be made up within ten days if you wish to be given a grade for these assignments and to be successful in this course.

❖ Students may be exposed to sensitive pictures, videos, readings, and discussions related to crime scene investigations. Students will never be forced to interact with material they find uncomfortable, however, alternative assignments will not be made available. It is expected for students to maintain an appropriate level of maturity.

### **2. Required Materials**

- ❖ Chromebook
- ❖ Folder or notebook just for Forensics
- ❖ pen or pencil

### **3. Tentative Units of Study**

(subject to change)

- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Observations             | 7. Glass Evidence        |
| 2. Crime Scene and Evidence | 8. Casts and Impressions |
| 3. Fingerprinting           | 9. Blood Spatter         |
| 4. Handwriting Analysis     | 10. Toxicology           |
| 5. Hair Evidence            | 11. Time of Death        |
| 6. Fiber Evidence           |                          |

#### **4. Grading:**

Quarter grades are determined based on points. The amount of points you attain are compared to total points to calculate a quarter grade.

#### **Homework/Classwork /Labs**

❖ Classwork assignments will come from notes, labs or worksheets. All class notes/handouts, homework, classwork, lab reports, and projects will ultimately comprise the Forensic Science notebook. **The notebook should contain all materials gathered during the quarter, as well as be organized and neat. It will be used at the end of the semester for your in-class final exam.**

❖ Classwork and homework are usually worth between 5-30 points. All assigned classwork must be completed on time. I will typically give you ample time in class to complete an assignment. If (for whatever reason) you do not complete it, you must finish it that night and turn it in the following day. Failure to do so will result in a lower grade for that assignment. **Any legally absent students will have two weeks upon returning to school to make-up missed homework.**

❖ Labs/Case Studies are a **HUGE** component of this course. After being given notes or the background of a topic, much of the time will be used looking at and investigating types of physical evidence one would encounter or examples of such phenomena in historical cases. All labs/case studies will be explained, done by you, and questions answered fully for full credit.

❖ Labs are typically anywhere between 20-50 points. Students are expected to turn in their lab work on time (as specified by the teacher). Failure to turn in a lab on time will result in a lower grade. If a student is legally absent on the day a lab is due, it must be turned in on the day the student returns to class.

#### **❖ Projects**

During this course, students will have several projects to complete during the semester. Projects are worth 100 points each. At the end of each major unit of study, you will be given a project to work on with a partner. Some projects you will be assigned a partner, others you may choose. These projects will require some research, a write-up, and presentation to the class. Students will be given plenty of advance notice for all projects.

❖ Students may be required to hand in their notebook (organized according to the rubric) each quarter for a project grade.

❖ If any project is not turned in on time, ten percent will be deducted for each day that it is late. Failure to complete a project will result in a grade of zero.

---

**I reserve the right to extend exceptions to the above policies for any student given extenuating circumstances. Above all this is a course that should be fun, engaging, interesting, as well as one that everyone can be successful in.**

[Click to Sign Google Form](#)