

FORENSIC SCIENCE



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Welcome to Forensic Science! Course Overview: This course uses the application of science to connect violations of law to a specific criminal, criminal act or behavior, and the victim. Students will learn the procedures and terminology related to the search for and examination of physical evidence. They will engage in opportunities to observe evidence in a laboratory environment and distinguish between the different types of evidence that can typically be found at crime scenes. Using scientific methods, students will analyze trace evidence (hair, fibers, soil, glass), DNA, blood, blood stain patterns, estimate time of death and create a biological profile using skeletal anatomy and biologic decomposition, bullet and tool mark impressions, fingerprints, and toxicological evidence and drug profiles. Additionally, students will learn the historical development of forensic science, those who were involved in its development, and related legal aspects.

Textbook: Forensic Science: Fundamentals & Investigations by Bertino & Bertino, 2nd ed., 2016

Technology: Google Classroom and REMIND

Class Materials

- 1) 3 ring Binder and dividers
- 2) Pens, pencils and notebook paper

Homework and Grading

- This is an interactive course where students will spend approximately 65% of this course conducting hands-on activities, labs and/or working in a lab environment. Thus, laboratory investigation is an integral part of the course. Safety will be maintained at all times (***All students and parents must sign the Safety Contract found on Google Classroom***).
- Homework will be kept to a minimum with the exception of incomplete classwork, preparation for unit quizzes, exams and/or projects.
- Your grade in this course is based on the following criteria
 - 40% — Daily Work, Homework, Labs and Quizzes
 - 60% — Projects and Tests

Absences and Make up Work

- **You are expected to attend class on a consistent basis.** Missing this class can make it easy to fall behind.
- School policy requires that you make up any work due to an absence that has been **excused** by the attendance office. Each situation is handled on an individual basis.
- You will be provided with a class calendar, a list of assignments, and associated due dates for the assignments. These will also be posted on Google classroom. When you are absent, check the class calendar before you return to class to see what you have missed. **Upon your return to class, check with me as to the status of any missed work (such as scheduling missed labs, quizzes, or tests) so arrangements can be made and you can make up your work in a timely fashion.** Failure to do so may result in a grade of zero being assigned, so do not put yourself in that position.

- Unexcused absences will be treated as prescribed by school policy. Thus, a grade of zero (Z) may/will be assigned to the missing work.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to demonstrate honesty and integrity. Cheating is a deliberate act, in that students make a conscious decision to engage in academic dishonesty. Any cheating on tests or quizzes will result in a zero without the opportunity to retake the assessment. No unauthorized electronic devices are allowed to be in use during or after a quiz or test, or on the days we are going over the quiz or test. Any unauthorized electronic device used during these times will result in a zero. This includes smart watches. Copying any classwork, homework and lab reports is considered cheating, whether from a peer or the internet, and a zero will be given for the plagiarized work. Consequences for violating the Honor Code will include a reduced course grade and National Honor Society notification of the violation. **All students and parents must sign the Academic Integrity Contract found on Google Classroom.**