

Forensic Science

Course Description

Curriculum for this 0.5 credit elective science course will feature lab activities dealing with various aspects of forensic science. Topics included will be fingerprinting, DNA analysis, blood typing, blood pattern analysis, comparative anatomy, and the chemical analysis of drugs, poisons, and trace evidence. An additional feature of this class will be a series of labs using the Vernier lab analysis equipment. Each lab is preceded by a short scenario that introduces the concepts or methods to be addressed in the lab. These introductory sequences are designed to develop the analytical skills and to help students determine a variety of forensic techniques. Students are expected to complete a Case Analysis for each activity that relates to the concepts and techniques addressed in the lab, and to “solve” the crime introduced in the scenario with the data they collect.

Overarching Essential Question

- How can scientific principles be applied to forensic data to make decisions in the Criminal Justice System?
- How can the fields of science and the law be integrated to promote justice in society?

Grading

Quarterly grades will be based on a point system with approximate weights as listed below:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------|
| • Tests | 50 % |
| • Quizzes | 20 |
| • Projects and labs | 20 |
| • Homework and class work | 10 |

Materials

Please bring these items to class every day:

- 3-ring binder with tabs
- Lined paper for notes
- Composition notebook for labs
- Pencils
- Calculator

Textbook

Forensics Science: An Introduction by Richard Saferstein

Additional open access electronic resources.

Units	Semester
Introduction	1
Crime Scene	1
Physical Evidence	1
The Microscope in Forensics	1
Trace Evidence I: Hairs and Fibers	1
Trace Evidence II: Soil and other materials	2
Fingerprints	2
Document Examination	2
Biological measures: DNA and Blood typing	2
Crime Scene Reconstruction	2
Forensic Aspects of Fire Investigation	2

Student Name (Print):

I have read the course syllabus for my chemistry class and I understand what is expected of me this year. I will put effort into all of my work, come to class with a positive attitude and take responsibility for my successful completion of this course.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name:

Relation to Student:

Contact Information

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

Email Address:

Preferred Method of Contact:

I have reviewed the syllabus for Mrs. Martin's chemistry class and I understand what is expected of the student. I will work with the teacher and the student to promote the success of the student in this class.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____