

Grading:

Grades can be seen in Infinite Campus with the following categories and weights:

- **Minor Grades = 60%**
Examples: quizzes, labs, and other graded assignments to measure ongoing learning in a module.
- **Major Grades = 40%**
Examples: unit tests, research papers, project-based assignments, and other measures showing mastery of a module.

Because students are expected to master the content, grade repair will be ongoing throughout the school year as each module is completed. Academic dishonesty (cheating) is a discipline issue and may result referral to administration if required. Any assignment cheating occurs on must be recompleted for a grade to be recorded.

At the conclusion of the course in early May all Biology students will be expected to take the End of Course assessment which will count as 20% of their final grade.

Make-up work: Classwork will be found in Canvas. All students will have access to the assignments as soon as they are posted. Therefore, all students returning from absences will be expected to turn in missed work within 5 days of returning.

Tutoring: Monday - Thursday after school until 4:00 PM by appointment

Remind Code: @wscforens

Forensic Science

Mr. Wm Saunders-Cummings

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Course Description:

Forensic Science ("Forensics") is a two-semester science course defined by the Georgia Standards of Excellence. The class explores the use of scientific technique and procedures as used to help solve crimes. Subjects include evidence types, scientific techniques to analyze physical and trace evidence, toxicology, serology, DNA technology, ballistics, tool mark evidence, arson, anthropology, entomology and medicolegal death investigations (autopsies). Be advised: this class covers subjects which include graphic material and may be disturbing for some people.

Students learn through various means; therefore, assignments will include opportunities to write about, visualize, and experience the concepts being studied. Assignments will be carried across curriculum lines as math skills are utilized to manipulate collected data and writing skills are employed in reporting scientific findings to prepare the learner for the global community by improving higher order thinking and decision-making abilities. The ultimate goal is to make science enjoyable while constructing a solid foundation upon which to build scientific knowledge and help prepare students for adult responsibilities just as jury duty or work.

Class Expectations:

Be on-time and prepared to participate. This means students will be in their seats ready to engage in the assignment when the bell rings.

Be respectful to all members of the classroom. Common courtesy is expected from all people in the classroom.

All laboratory safety procedures and rules must be followed. This is not negotiable; failure to follow safety rules is considered a serious offense and will result in immediate removal from the activity and loss of the grade (NO CREDIT).

All county and school policies will be enforced.

Cells phones are not allowed without direct permission.

In the event of disruptive behavior:

The following steps will be taken:

- 1st Offense: Verbal Warning
- 2nd Offense: Individual counseling
- 3rd Offense: Call to Parent(s)/Guardian(s)
- 4th Offense: Office Referral

Serious offenses will result in an immediate office referral.

Materials:

Required every day:

- Writing implement (pen/pencil)
- Composition book (preferred) or notebook or three ring binder and paper
- Computer or other internet capable device.

Suggested materials:

- Colored pencils or fine point markers
- Personal hand sanitizer, tissues, etc.

This syllabus is subject to change as needed and required. Any changes to the syllabus will be accompanied with an explanation of the change and reasons in writing with no less than 48 hours notice before the changes go into effect.

Expectations of a Science Student

- Follow all established rules.
- Be willing to make mistakes so you can learn from them.
- Review course materials regularly.
- Be willing to push your own boundaries everyday.
- Be inquisitive...ask questions, ask questions, ask questions!

Topic Outline for The Year (* - 1st Semester, ** 2nd Semester)

The forensic science curriculum is divided into nine modules that integrate the Georgia Standards of Excellence for forensic science. These modules are presented with an overall unifying theme and will follow this sequence:

1. Introduction to Forensic Science *
2. Crime Scene Investigation and Processing *
3. Impression Evidence *
4. Trace Evidence: Hair and Fibers *
5. Trace Evidence: Soil and Grass*
6. Document Analysis and Computer Forensics **
7. Drugs and Toxicology **
8. DNA & Serology **
9. Forensic Pathology **

Each module will have a pre-assessment (pre-test) which will help guide individual and whole class instruction. Modules may be shortened or extended if all students show mastery or need more time for mastery. As such, the best calendar can be found on Canvas for all assignments.

We are always in need of the following for our class:

- Tissues
- Colored copy paper
- White school glue
- Colored pencils
- Pencils
- Clorox wipes
- Paper towels
- Magic Erasers©

Passes out of classes are for emergencies only. Abuse will result loss of the privilege.