

Welcome to Forensic Science!

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Forensic science is a laboratory-based introduction to the analysis of crime scenes that explore the collecting and analyzing of physical evidence. This course is designed to integrate the core scientific disciplines (as outlined in the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for grades 9-12) while giving students both theory and hands-on experience with the skills and knowledge required of a forensic crime scene investigator. This multidisciplinary approach will highlight topics in DNA, genetics, anatomy, chemistry, physics, entomology, botany, and investigative techniques with supplemental subject matter through case studies, earth science, mathematics, medicine, technology and sociology. In addition, the ethical, legal, and social concerns surrounding forensics will be discussed. Process skills will include comparative analysis, critical thinking, deductive reasoning, interviewing, observation, organization, problem solving, research, communication, evidence collection, lab safety, and technical reading. Project-based learning through laboratory investigations and discussions/class lecture will serve as the main method of content delivery. Individually and in groups, you will work on case studies using facts, logic, and objective thinking to research crimes and apply the processes used to solve them.

Availability: Tutoring is available during SMART Lunch on the following days: **Tuesday – B & Friday – A**
Locations for SMART lunches will be posted/announced.

Website: This course will have information **for students** in Canvas.
Additional information is posted on course websites:

- <https://sites.google.com/a/wcpss.net/panther-creek-forensics/>
- <http://pcforensics.weebly.com>

Please check the website **DAILY** for updates and assignments.

Required Materials:

- **Composition Notebook**
- Pencils and Pens (Blue or Black Ink)
- Other items that may be needed: 3 Ring Notebook, Loose Leaf Paper, Graph Paper, & Scientific Calculator

Notebooks: Each student will be responsible for keeping a laboratory composition notebook to organize their materials. This notebook will be collected at the end of each unit and checked for completion of assignments, labs, and organization.

WCPSS Grading Scale: A: 100-90% B: 89-80% C: 79-70% D: 69-60% F: 59% or below

Quarter grades will be comprised of the following weighted categories:

- **60% Tests**
- **25% Labs**
- **10% Homework/Classwork/Quizzes**
- **5% Student Engagement**

The overall course grade will be broken down as such:

- 40% Quarter 1 Grade
- 40% Quarter 2 Grade
- 20% Final Exam

Senior Exemption: According to Panther Creek policy, some seniors may qualify for exemption from this Final Exam as a result of the Academic and Attendance Incentive Program.

Make-up Work:

It is the responsibility of the student to make up all missed work. If class is missed for any reason, students should obtain notes from classmates. If the student is absent one to three days, he/she will have one day for each absence to complete the missing work. If we have a scheduled test or quiz on the day you are absent, you will be expected to take the test or quiz **on the day you return from the absence**. If a student is absent more than three days, the student will have two days for each day missed for makeup work. Extended absences will be considered on an individual basis.

Due to equipment and time constraints, lab activities are difficult to make up. If you miss a lab, it may be possible for you to make up the lab with permission (and arrangement). If it is not possible, you may be given a modified assignment as an alternative. However, you are still responsible for ALL information covered within the lab.

Late Work: When an assignment is handed in late, it will be reduced 10% per day up to a maximum of 40% from the original work (as per Board Policy). Maximum grade of 40% will be highest graded attained on late work submitted after grading has taken place.

Attendance: Many of the concepts in this course build upon mastery of previous work, so attendance and participation are essential for success! Participation is the only way to learn!

Restroom: The expectation is for you to be present during the entire class period. All personal business should be handled outside of class time. For any hall passes issued, we will follow the 10-10-10 rule.

Tardy Policy: The following school tardy policy will be enforced:
1st/2nd tardy for semester – Warning
3rd tardy for semester = Parent contact/warning
4th tardy for semester = Teacher assigns student to teacher assigned consequence
5th tardy for semester = Administrative referral (ALD)
Additional tardy for semester = Administrative Referral (ALD, ASD or privilege revocation)

Safety: Safety is essential in a forensics lab! Students must sign and follow the lab safety contract. A copy of the lab safety contract is available on Blackboard. Any student not following the guidelines will be asked to leave the lab and will lose credit for that lab.

Discipline: PCHS procedures and policies will be enforced. Student/Teacher expectations will be reviewed and discussed in class. Possible consequences will include a first warning, parent contact/conference, administrative referral, or for serious offenses, administrators will be contacted immediately. Both parents and students must read the Syllabus, Student Expectations, and Lab Safety Contract posted on Blackboard and sign the signature form on Blackboard.

***Cell phones should be off during the school day.** If they are **visible/ring/vibrate/cause distractions during class**, the student will receive **one warning** and **then lunch detentions** for each "sighting." Repeated offenses will result in an **administrative referral**.

Expectations: Student expectations will be discussed in detail on the first day.
Be present and on time
Be prepared for and engaged in learning
Be a person of character
Be safe and comply with PCHS and WCPSS policies

Plagiarism & Group Work: Students will be actively engaged in team activities and lab experiments. Since students will collect their data and observations as a group, it is reasonable to expect that the data and observations might be similar among students. However, all conclusion questions, opinions, or other personal reflections on the activity should be the work of the individual students and no two students should have the same thoughts about what has been learned. As such, if "cloned" copies of work are handed in for grading, students will be asked to explain the work and in most cases a zero grade will be entered. If there is any confusion, students should always ask the teacher for guidance.

Intervention: Students who make **a 69 or less** are allowed to remediate their unit test to a grade **no higher than a 69** in order to improve content knowledge.

- Honors Classes are allowed to remediate ONLY 1 unit test each quarter if they receive a D or F.
- Test remediation takes place during SMART lunch and is only available for two weeks after a test is given. More information will be provided after the first test is complete.