



3041 W. Avenue K
Lancaster, CA 93526
(661) 722-6509

Hi Forensic Biology Students and Families (Lab Assistants too)!

Introduction

I would like to take some time to introduce myself. I am Ms. Campos. This year I am teaching AVID 9 and Forensic Biology. I have been teaching in the Antelope Valley Union High School District for the past 21 years--7 of those years at Highland High School and 14 years at SOAR High School. I have taught Biology, IB Biology, Geometry, Algebra, AVID 9, and Forensic Biology. Prior to teaching, I worked in several laboratories as a research technician studying bone tumors, malaria, and DNA. My passion for research began when I got my BS in Biological Sciences from UC Irvine. I continued on the research path at the City of Hope, where I did my thesis work in collaboration with Cal State Los Angeles, where I received my MS in Biology. My passion for research impacts my teaching philosophy. I want students to think critically about ideas, to question things, and to derive explanations using data. Making mistakes is a BIG part of science. It is how we learn and can be more impactful than getting the correct answer on the first try. This is seen in a laboratory, as well as in life. Keeping this in mind, I want students to do things to LEARN and not for a grade. Grades will always accompany learning. I try to have students focus on a growth mindset; determining if they are succeeding, developing, or emerging when tackling learning objectives.



Policies

I have a learning policy that follows my growth mindset philosophy. Not all assignments will be graded. Work assigned is designed to help students acclimate to a college and high school environment, for practice, and to access their knowledge. Late assignments are generally not accepted. It is best to turn in late work via email with the assignment name (found in Google Classroom), Class Period, Date (if applicable), and a screenshot of your work. In addition, provide an explanation as to why it is late. I will consider the circumstances and reply. In these unusual circumstances, we are all receiving tons of email messages. If a change has not been made by the next class period, please come to class early or stay after class to discuss the assignment and situation. I want to be flexible and understanding under our

Covid situation. However, I am also trying to prepare you for success in college, so late work is highly discouraged. If I make a mistake, please follow the above procedure as well. At SOAR, we want you to be a STAR--S (self-advocate), T (teachable), A (accountable), R (responsible).

Supplies

- ★ Physical and/or Digital Notebook
- ★ Physical and/or Digital Folder
- ★ Physical or Digital Planner
- ★ Pencil
- ★ Blue or Black Pen
- ★ Computer, Laptop, or Chromebook with functioning mic and camera
- ★ Reliable Internet
- ★ If you need a hotspot, chromebook or are having technical difficulties, contact the office ASAP.

Schedule

Students need to be ready to log onto Google Meets 5 minutes before class begins. Google Meet Expectations and Breakout Room Norms have been provided to students. Music is playing when students enter class as I greet them. The topic for the day, warm-up exercise, and brain teaser will be on a Google Slide presentation that the class can see. As I take attendance, students get set up by putting their heading (name, date, class, and period) at the top of a Google Doc or in their physical notebook, along with the topic for the day. Students have 5 minutes to get set up and complete a warm-up exercise (if time permits...a brain teaser). I take attendance while they are working. We then proceed with the planned agenda. Assignments are posted with due dates on Google Classroom. Students should write down due dates in their planner at the end of each class period or as they come up. For the most successful learning outcomes, students should complete work as soon as possible and review notes from class before coming to the next class. Assignments are due by 11:59 pm on the day that they are assigned. Research shows that students lose 70% of what is taught within the first 24 hours if they have not reviewed or practiced what they learned.

Overview of the Year

See syllabus for what is covered and SOAR calendar for Progress Report dates, Holidays, Student Activity Days, and Student Free Days. It would be helpful to look at the AVC calendar as well.

Communication Methods

I can be reached via email at ycampos@avhsd.org. Messages can be left for me in the office. The office number is (661)722-6509 or (661)429-0522. It is highly encouraged that students advocate for themselves first--email and talk to me before or after class. If a resolution is not met, families can contact teachers. Google Meet appointments can be scheduled if a conference is needed. I am here to support students and families. I want to see and help all students grow academically and emotionally. Grades will be posted on Google Classroom. Final Grades can be seen on PowerSchool. I post comments to students on both Google Classroom and PowerSchool to help with any corrections that need to be made.

Google Slide

Please have your student give you a tour through my [Bitmoji Classroom Google Slide](#) (CLICK HERE). Have them share their successes or mistakes. Let them tell you what they are doing to be successful or what support they need to move forward. In presentation mode, hover over the objects on the bookshelf. When you see a hand pop up, click the image and it will take you to a link. The top shelf mainly introduces me. The middle shelf contains most of the supplies that students need. The bottom shelf has useful resources, such as a how to guide for Google Classroom, SOAR HS website, AVC website, and PowerSchool link. The book that they should have is found on the BIG bulletin board, along with the class syllabus (click on it and you can download it. Finally, there is a QR code on the BIG bulletin board. Open your camera app on your phone and scan the QR code. It will take you to a Padlet. Please follow the directions on the Padlet when you get to the location. Post the name of you and your student, take a family selfie and upload, and ask a question or comment, if you have one, on a sticky note (one per family). Please limit questions to things about my class and not about student grades. Back to School is not a family conference. I am more than happy to talk to you about how we can support your student if they are struggling.

I wish we could have met in person for this event and I would like you to know that I am getting to know all of my students. I am grateful for their participation, enthusiasm, and effort. SOAR is definitely the BEST place to teach. I enjoy my interactions with my students and feel extremely lucky to have them in my class. I look forward to learning TOGETHER this year. Take care and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Ms. Yvonne A. Campos



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Forensic Biology and AVID Teacher

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