

Welcome to Forensic Science

Mrs. Jayme Weaver

First, let me say that I look forward to having each of you in class. I am available for help or questions whenever needed. My planning periods are 2nd & 3rd periods and I am almost always available before or after school. Let me know when you need help and we can schedule a time.

The phone number for the school is 903-2260, please leave a message for me and I will return it as soon as I can. My school email address is weaverja@lee.k12.ga.us

Please read the syllabus & then complete the attached assignment that says you have read & understand these policies and procedures.

Note: We do not currently have a textbook for Forensic Science. Important information will be provided to students via PowerPoint presentations, articles, Google Classroom, etc. It is very important that students join Google Classroom to have access to presentation material at home. Details on how to join are listed below.

Course Description: Forensic Science will engage students in *forensics*—the application of *science* for solving crimes. This is a course rich in exploration and lab investigation which applies many disciplines of scientific study such as biology/anatomy, chemistry, and physics to solving crimes. The instruction in this course is a combination of lecture (in class & by online video) demonstrations, laboratory assignments, article reviews, projects & student-centered learning, where you learn by doing instead of by watching. **We will discuss my expectation regarding technology the first week.**

****Disclaimer-** Mature topics will be discussed throughout this course as it appropriately pertains to the content. Topics may or may not mention homicide, suicide, rape, psychology of serial killers, bodily fluids, etc. Please understand that these topics must be referenced and discussed in a MATURE way.

Basic Classroom Rules & Expectations: In order for all of us to get the most benefit from the upcoming school year, certain basic guidelines exist.

Students are expected to:

- 1) Follow school-wide policies (this includes dress-code, tardiness. & use of technology (cell phones, mp3).
- 2) Come to class with all supplies (paper, pencil, etc.).
- 3) **PUT YOUR PHONE AWAY**, unless I have specifically said we are using it.
- 4) Be in class, listen, take notes when necessary, and participate. Be active in your learning!
- 5) Sleep at home, not in class.
- 6) Food/drink are NOT permitted. Water is ok, except during labs.
- 7) Have a good attitude towards learning and don't be afraid to ask questions.
- 8) Do your own work – NO CHEATING!
- 9) Arrange with the instructor (within three days of an **excused** absence) to make up missed work. It is YOUR responsibility to make arrangements. If the work is NOT made up as arranged, zeros will be given for the missed work!
- 10) YOU BREAK IT – YOU BUY IT! (this refers to ANY material found in classroom or used in class that does NOT belong to you).

Consequences of behavior: You should expect to be commended for good behavior, just as you expect to be disciplined for behavior problems. I contact parents for things you do well just as I will contact them for poor choices with regard to behavior! On the other hand, poor choices with regard to behavior (school-wide policies & classroom policies) will result in:

First offense* – warning from teacher

Second offense – one on one conference between teacher & student (usually conducted after class – may result in an unexcused tardy for the next class period)

Third offense – parent contact WITH before or after-school detention & (if warranted) immediate removal from classroom

Fourth offense – referral to the administration for further disciplinary actions

* there are some behaviors that will require immediate referral to the administration

Special assistance

In support of our school's MTSS (student support) plan, I will offer after-school and PRIDE tutoring sessions for each unit of study. Lab/Project make-ups (as needed) are scheduled for PRIDE time on Thursdays. Some lab make-ups will utilize a virtual lab activity that will be done independently, at home.

Grading

- ✓ **Tests:** Tests will cover knowledge & application of important concepts. Some test will be performance-based assessments. **(Most will be worth 100 points)**
- ✓ **Quizzes:** Quizzes can be announced or unannounced as needed and cover vocabulary, material studied since the last test, or over a specific day's material. BE READY! **(20-50 points)**
- ✓ **Projects, labs, written assignments:** This category encompasses other performance-based assignments/assessments, as well as labs, and written assignments that will reflect your knowledge on standards covered throughout each unit. **(30-100 points)**
- ✓ **Daily:** This category will include work that is completed in class on a daily basis. You are responsible for following along and being active in your learning. **(10-30 points)**

Exemption Policy

Students may exempt semester exams if they meet the following criteria:

- **90 and above-** 5 or fewer absences for the semester
- **80-89-** 3 or fewer absences for the semester
- **70-79-** ZERO absences for the semester

***Students who have been assigned ISS or OSS are required to take their final exams.**

Supplies

Three ring binder (1 & ½ in) with loose leaf paper

Highlighters (3 colors)

Colored pencils/Crayons (your preference)

Scissors

Calculator

Blue/Black Pens

Pencils #2

Glue stick

Assignments (are due at the beginning of class on the due date)

- ⚡ **ASSIGNMENTS** utilize previous scientific training, math & language art skills.
- ⚡ **LABORATORY PROCEDURES** require proper laboratory safety. Students who are unwilling to follow safe laboratory procedures will not participate in the laboratory & will receive zeros for all related grades. Students work in teams during laboratory procedures at assigned lab stations.
- ⚡ **LATE ASSIGNMENTS** are assessed a 10 point penalty per day. After 3 days a ZERO is given! The penalty is BEFORE the assignment is graded for content. Students who miss an assignment due to an excused absence will be given 3 days to complete the assignment without penalty.

Course Objectives (Department of Education – Georgia Standards of Excellence)

Unit 1: History & Crime Scene Investigations- Understanding how to properly conduct forensic investigations.

Unit 2: Analyzing Physical and Trace Evidence- Communicating information on the various techniques to analyze physical, trace, and digital evidence and their importance.

Unit 3: Analyzing Biological Evidence- Understanding how to communicate information relating to the types of biological evidence.

Unit 4: DNA- Communicate information after investigating DNA processing and analysis.

Unit 5: Impression Evidence- Understanding the role of impression evidence in order to make a physical match examination.

Unit 6: Death Investigations- Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to medicolegal death investigations.

Students: Please go to your email or Google Classroom platform and accept the invitation to your class' Google Classroom. I will use this platform to upload important updates, notes, PowerPoints, and you will use it to submit assignments.

***Parents & Students Please join Remind:** I frequently send reminds about quizzes, tests, projects, and other assignments. I would love for both parents and students to have access.

Text @forsci2022 to 81010

Recording Consent Statement

****Recording a meeting without the consent of all participants may be illegal and actionable. You should obtain consent to record a meeting from all participants, including external guests and guests who join late.**

****Please read carefully, sign, and return the Parent Consent/Safety contract that follows. Your signature there will also indicate that you have read and understand the syllabus.***