

## Welcome to Forensic Science

Mrs. Camille Watson

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 4th and 7th periods and I am almost always available 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 [watsonam@lee.k12.ga.us](mailto:watsonam@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, 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 include various methods of BYOT (Bring Your Own Technology).** We will discuss my expectations for this during the first week.

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

Students are expected to:

1. Follow school-wide policies (this includes dress-code, tardies, & 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 in ALL class activities.
5. Sleep at home, not in class.
6. Eat at home or in the cafeteria. 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.

## Course Assessment Plan:

**Semester Grades** – the average of the two nine-week grades = **80% of the semester grade**  
the grade obtained the Final exam = **20% of the semester grade**

**9-week grades** are calculated using the point system as explained below:

- ✓ **Tests:** Tests will cover knowledge & application of important concepts. Each unit of study will be followed by a comprehensive post test. **(50% of the semester grade)**
- ✓ **Quizzes, Daily Assignments, Article Reviews, Homework:** Quizzes can be announced or unannounced as needed and cover material studied since the last test or over a specific day's material. **BE READY!**  
**(25% of the semester grade)**
- ✓ **Projects, Labs:** Some project assignments will require use of the Internet. Students are expected to notify the instructor of concerns before due date. Lab grades include following lab procedures as directed and a lab report.  
**(25% of semester grade)**

### 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.

*\* See the [LCHS Student Handbook](#) for Exemption Policy information. Students will be eligible to exempt the Semester Final Exams in Forensic Science if they meet the requirements.*

### Course Objectives (Department of Education – Georgia Performance Standards)

Unit 1: Observation Skills, History, & The Crime Lab	Unit 7: Firearm, Tool Mark, & Impression Evidence Analysis
Unit 2: Types of Evidence: Identification and Comparison	Unit 8: Arson & Explosive Evidence Analysis
Unit 3: The Crime Scene: Securing, Searching, Processing	Unit 9: Forensic Toxicology
Unit 4: Fingerprinting: Comparison, Lifting, Developing	Unit 10: DNA Profiling
Unit 5: Document & Handwriting Analysis	Unit 11: Forensic Serology: Blood Typing & Identification; Bloodstain Pattern Analysis
Unit 6: Trace Evidence: Hair, Fiber, Glass, Paint, & Soil Analysis	Unit 12: Death Investigation: Time, Cause, & Manner; Forensic Anthropology

Students: Please join our **Forensic Science Google Classroom**. This is an important requirement for you to access class notes, assignments, review activities, announcements, and more!

Go to <https://classroom.google.com> and enter join code: **16ha18z**

Parent/Guardian: Please make sure we have your most current and accurate email in our system. I will send you an invitation to join our Google Classroom to keep up with your student's assignments and important announcements once your student has joined the class.

*\*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.*