



**Forensic Science 2022- 2023**  
**Vista del Lago High School**  
Mrs. Taylor Alber  
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### **Introduction to the Course:**

Forensics is a laboratory science class for students that are college bound and/or interested in the field of forensic science. The class will introduce students to the fields of forensic science and provide a general overview of the practices used by forensic scientists. Students will participate in lab activities and simulations that develop the practical and theoretical aspects of forensics. This class will integrate previous science courses and demonstrate to the student the relevance of science education for practical use.

### **Learning Expectations:**

By the end of the course, students will be able to distinguish between popularized fiction of forensics and crime situations and reality. They will be able to apply the scientific process and critical thinking skills to answer questions, solve problems and investigate crimes through case studies and/or simulations. Students will learn the value of both inductive and deductive reasoning. Forensic science is the ultimate inquiry class!



### **Curriculum:**

This year, students will work through seven units:

- ☐ **Unit 1: Forensics and the law.** Topics covered: The CSI Effect, a brief history of forensic science, crime labs and professions, eye witness accounts and a brief introduction to the law and the role of forensic science in the criminal justice system.
- ☐ **Unit 2: The crime scene and evidence.** Topics covered: A brief introduction to crime scene processing, types of evidence and a brief introduction to evidence collection
- ☐ **Unit 3: The body after death and entomology.** Topics covered: the human body after death, forensic entomology as evidence and body farms (anthropology/pathology).
- ☐ **Unit 4: The microscope, hair and fiber.** Topics covered: microscopes, morphology of hair, fibers and their importance to forensic science.
- ☐ **Unit 5: Fingerprints.** Topics covered: History of fingerprints, fingerprint classification, analysis of fingerprints and development of latent prints.
- ☐ **Unit 6: Serology.** Topics covered: The biology of blood, blood typing, microscopic analysis of blood from different species and presumptive testing for blood.
- ☐ **Unit 7: Blood Spatter Analysis.** Topics covered: physical properties of blood and how they contribute to the various types of bloodstain patterns, and how bloodstain pattern analysis is used in crime scene investigations.
- ☐ **Mini-Unit 8 (If time): Introduction to the Psychology of Serial Killers.**



## Grades

Grades will be calculated in PowerSchool. Feedback will be offered to help students improve their learning before being assessed summatively. Formative work will make up no more than 30% of the overall grade, and summative work will make up no more than 70%. [Click here to review information on grading in Forensic Science.](#)

**Grades are NOT recorded in Google Classroom. They are recorded in PowerSchool.**

- **Formative Assessments** (Assessments *for* Learning include: some quizzes, daily assignments, case studies, online labs/simulations, etc). Formative work may be graded, spot checked or checked off for completion.
- **Summative Assessments** (Assessments *of* Learning include: some quizzes, tests, projects, presentations, final exam, etc). All summative work will be graded.

## Extra Credit

No extra credit will be accepted. Students are expected to complete the assignments as designed for the course.

## Citizenship Grade

The citizenship grade is measured by your ability and willingness to follow the policies of this class. As a Science Department, we value courtesy, cooperation, and respect. The policies reflect this and the standards conducive to an orderly, productive classroom environment. Therefore, the following will be used to determine your citizenship grade: attendance and class contribution, following directions, obeying rules, and attitude toward me, fellow classmates, and substitutes. Please review [Vista del Lago's Citizenship and Conduct Rubric](#).

## Academic

## Dishonesty

All students are expected to adhere to the school wide academic dishonesty policy (see link below under section titled "Links to Schools Policies/Info"). **Do not Cut/copy/paste. Remember "working together" does not justify a duplicated/copied assignment.**

## Late Work & Make-Up Work

Late work will be accepted and graded, at teacher discretion, within one week of the original due date. If it is not turned in within one week of the original due date the student will receive an "M" or missing which equals a "0" on that assignment. [Click here to review the "point grid for submitted work."](#)

Student excused absences - All tests and minor assignments are due upon returning from an excused absence (Long term assignments are due on their due date). The only exceptions will be those assignments GIVEN during the absence. These will be due two days after your return unless designed to be completed over several days. It is the responsibility of the student to inquire about any and all missed work and to make the necessary arrangements for its completion. If tests/quizzes/assignments are not made up within a week of return (or an arrangement by the student with the teacher), the student will receive a "M" or missing which equals a "0" on that test/quiz/assignment.

## Distance Learning Etiquette & Norms

Carefully Review the following links (**additional information IF we need to "distance learn" for any period of time**):

- 1) [15 Rules of Netiquette for Online Discussion](#)
- 2) [Microsoft Teams Virtual Conferencing Norms](#)
- 3) [Vista del Lago Student Online Student Learning Expectations](#)

## Important Information

<p><b>When and where will assignments be posted?</b></p>	<div data-bbox="1133 163 1234 262" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>To access the daily agendas click on the daily agendas icon in our <b>Forensic Science Classroom HUB</b> in Google Classroom. You can access the <b>Forensic Science Classroom HUB</b> by clicking on the stream or classwork tab located at the top of your screen.</p>
<p><b>When will our class meet?</b></p>	<p>Our Forensic Science class will meet in room E-205 (<a href="#">campus map</a>). Please review the <a href="#">Bell Schedule</a> for the time your Forensic Science block meets.</p> <p>If you are absent from class make sure to check the daily agendas found in the Forensic Science Classroom HUB (in Google Classroom) for your missed assignments.</p>
<p><b>What role does participation play in this course?</b></p>	<p>Since this is a hands-on class, it is especially important that students are in class on time, ready to work each day.</p> <p>Participation in this course is important, not only will you have the opportunity to receive real-time feedback from me, you will engage with your peers in critical discussions about content and skills.</p>
<p><b>How will we communicate, and what are those expectations?</b></p>	<p><b>The best way to communicate with me is via email at <a href="mailto:Talber@fcusd.org">Talber@fcusd.org</a></b> Please use the following phrasing in the subject line of the email: <b>"Student's First AND last name, block number and Forensics."</b> That will help me filter through my emails much more easily.</p>
<p><b>What technology platforms will we use in this course?</b></p>	<p>We will be using Google Classroom, Flipgrid, Peardeck, Edpuzzle and a few other apps. I will be introducing them as needed. As always please reach out to me if you have questions.</p> <p><b>NOTE for students: Always sign into online platforms using your school email address (@student.fcusd.org).</b></p>
<p><b>Technology in the classroom:</b></p>	<p>Electronic devices (cell phones, smart watches, etc.) out during testing or any other summative assignments may result in a zero on the test/summative and a class suspension.</p> <p>Cell phones will be placed in the cell pocket in the classroom during your Forensics block. All earbuds/airpods need to be taken out of your ears and put away.</p>
<p><b>What are our classroom rules and procedures?</b></p>	<p>Please review this <a href="#">document for our classroom rules and procedures</a>.</p>
<p><b>Dress code in the classroom:</b></p>	<p>Students will follow established school rules. Violators will be sent to the office if the attire does not meet the appropriate standards for an educational environment. <b><u>Hats of any kind may not be worn in the classroom. Eyes and ears must be visible; no hoods.</u></b></p>
<p><b>What materials do I need for this class?</b></p>	<p>Students are to have in their possession every day that this class meets: a pencil, a pen (blue or black), and a binder with plenty of ruled/graph paper. If you have difficulty obtaining these materials, please talk to me as soon as possible. I also suggest bringing a calculator, metric ruler, and a set of colored pencils.</p>
<p><b>Voluntary donations:</b></p>	<p>Donations of any amount are accepted to help cover the costs of fingerprint ink, fingerprint powder, artificial blood products, and other consumable lab supplies. Checks can be made out to Vista del Lago High School (please be sure to note Forensic Science in the memo section). Students should drop checks off at student accounts and obtain a receipt that should be turned into me (this will help me keep track of donations for spending reasons). All donations are tax deductible. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.</p>

	I would also welcome donations of kleenex, and hand soap. THANK YOU :)
<b>Textbook and Classroom Materials:</b>	All students will be issued a textbook for at-home use. Students will be held financially responsible should the textbook be damaged or lost. Replacement cost for this textbook is \$96.00. This class will involve lab activities using materials that will enhance the student's learning experience. Many of these materials are expensive and/or difficult to replace. Additionally, some of these materials may present a hazard to the student or others if misused. Students who intentionally abuse any classroom materials, equipment, furnishings or personal belongings of others will be responsible for the replacement or repair costs should their abuse cause damage, and may face additional disciplinary action depending upon the severity of the abuse.
<b>Laboratory Safety Information:</b>	<a href="#">Please review this document for laboratory safety in the Forensic Science classroom.</a>

### My Note to You

Albert Einstein said it beautifully, “Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.”

As we continue moving forward with learning, please know that I am here for you and your students.

#### Links to School Policies/Info

- ☐ [Attendance Policy](#)
- ☐ Tardy Policy
- ☐ [Academic Dishonesty](#)
- ☐ Electronic Devices/Technology (pg. 21)
- ☐ Citizenship Rubric
- ☐ [Bell Schedule](#)
- ☐ [FlexiSched](#)

#### My Teaching Schedule

(NOTE: I am a part time teacher)

- ☐ Block 1:
- ☐ Block 2: [Forensic Science](#)
- ☐ FlexTime (I will hold my FLEX times on Tuesdays and Thursdays in room E-205)
- ☐ Block 3: [Forensic Science](#)
- ☐ Block 4:

## Student & Parent/Guardian Signature

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions: It is easiest to reach me via [email](#); however, feel free to call and set up a phone appointment at any point.

\*Once you have read through the syllabus please GO TO YOUR FORENSIC SCIENCE GOOGLE CLASSROOM, CLICK ON CLASSWORK AND COMPLETE BOTH THE [Parent/Guardian](#) AND [Student](#) Acknowledgment Forms!

 SIGN HERE PLEASE!

**NOTE: Parents will fill out one acknowledgement form and students will fill the other.**