SYLLABUS FOR FORENSIC SCIENCES

Forensic Science is a multidisciplinary course. It encompasses concepts in many areas of science, math and the social sciences including anatomy, biology, chemistry, genetics, medicine, physics, algebra, geometry, statistics, trigonometry, psychology, sociology, communication and law. This course meets all the National Science Standards for high school science. The class will be lab intensive and will require strict attendance and participation. Several reference books will be used and we hope to eventually have a textbook for the students. Outline of course follows:

I. Introduction to Forensic Science
   A. Definitions of forensic science/criminalistics, physical evidence and crime scene
   B. Areas of specialty
   C. History of forensic science and basic lab setup
   D. Crime scene procedure and evidence collection

II. Impressions
   A. Fingerprints
      1. How to take fingerprints from a suspect
      2. Typing fingerprints
      3. Coding fingerprints
      4. Minutiae
      5. Methods of developing latent prints
   B. Footprints
      1. Patent, latent, or plastic prints
      2. How to cast shoeprints
      3. What to look for in a shoeprint
      4. Stride patterns
   C. Other Impression Types (general discussion)
      1. Lip prints
      2. Tire prints
      3. Tool prints
      4. Odontology

III. Questioned Documents
   A. Handwriting as a motor skill
   B. Methods of forgery of writing and typing
   C. Collecting exemplars
   D. Methods of analysis
   E. Chromatography

IV. Anthropology
   A. Indicators of sex, ancestry, and relative age
   B. Calculations of stature
   C. Indicators of trauma

V. Blood
   A. Blood typing
B. Luminol
C. Blood spatter

VI. Other Types of Evidence (general discussion)
A. Arson
B. Hair and fiber
C. Glass and soil
D. Toxicology
E. Entomology
F. Skeletal Recovery
G. DNA

VII. The Crime Scene Investigation
A. Simulated Crime Scene as Final Exam (approximately last 2-3 weeks)
   1. Students will work in groups to solve crime using all that they have learned
   2. All pieces of evidence, chain of evidence, crime scene sketch, and report will be turned in as grade.

METHODS OF EVALUATION
Students will be evaluated in a variety of ways. Written tests at appropriate intervals will be given. These tests will consist of questions that will be of both objective and essay nature. Students will be given both in-class and homework assignments that will be graded. Laboratory report grades will also be part of the student evaluation. Students may be expected to display laboratory skills and respond to oral tests.

SKILLS TO BE TAUGHT
- Organization skills for successful study
- Basic and advanced laboratory skills
- Science vocabulary
- Problem solving
- Ability to work in groups

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES AND EXPECTATIONS
- Students are expected to follow all school rules.
- Students will be treated with respect. They are expected to treat each other and the teacher with respect.
- Students are to be polite and behave in a responsible manner. This is especially important in the laboratory. Misbehavior will result in loss of lab privileges.
- There will be no food, gum or drinks permitted in the classroom or labs. (Water will be permitted in the classroom but not in the lab.)
- Students are expected to participate in all class activities.
• If a student is absent, a note which explains the absence must be produced within **two school days** in order to make up any missed work. Students will be given appropriate length of time to complete missed assignments. Five unexcused absences can result in denial of credit.

• If a student misses a test, the student will be able to make up that test on first Tuesday or Thursday following the missed test either before or after school. That gives the student four opportunities to make up the test before the grade is recorded as a zero.

• Students are expected to turn assignments in on time. Every day that the assignment is late will result in the loss of 20 points. After five days, the grade is a zero.

• Students are expected to come to class prepared to work. They need to bring all their supplies with them to class. **They are to be in their seats prior to the tardy bell. Three tardies equal one unexcused absence.**

• Students will not talk during testing (while any test is still out). **Talking during exam/test will result in a zero for that test/exam.**

**SUPPLIES**

- Quad-ruled Composition Notebook
- Notebook Paper
- Pencil (all labs will be done in pencil only)
- Pen (blue or black only)
- Calculator