**Piedmont Classical High School**

**Forensic Science Syllabus**

**2019-2020**

***A syllabus informs both parents and students of the expectations for the FORENSIC SCIENCE course for the 2018-2019 school year. CAREFULLY read through the syllabus COMPLETELY. Both the student and his/her parent or guardian will sign the last page acknowledging their compliance with the rules/expectations explained within the syllabus.***

**Instructor**

Mrs. Justine Lewis

Conference Period: 3nd Period

School email: [jlewis@piedmontclassical.com](mailto:jlewis@piedmontclassical.com)

Weebly site: [www.pchs-lewis.weebly.com](http://www.pchs-lewis.weebly.com)

Remind code: @ff7hc8

School phone: 336-897-1128

**Tutoring Hours**

Tuesday Afternoons: 3:30-4:30

Exceptions include Faculty/Departmental Meetings

*If you are unable to attend a tutoring session, please speak with me to make an appointment outside of normal tutoring hours.*

**Course Title** Forensic Science

**Course Description**

This course is designed around authentic performance assessments with students working in teams to solve crimes using scientific knowledge and reasoning. It involves all areas of science, including: biology, anatomy, chemistry, physics, and earth science with an emphasis in complex reasoning and critical thinking. Topics will include: the history of criminal investigations, crime scene investigation (documentation, preserving, and processing evidence), DNA analysis, types of evidence, fingerprinting techniques, blood spatter analysis, handwriting analysis, true crime case studies, and many more. Field trips and guest speakers are a goal for the class, if feasible. Mock crime scenes will be utilized to test student’s understanding of material in a practical manner.

**A hint to being successful is to never underestimate the value of reading the assigned chapters, making notes on the chapters and re-reading class notes.**

**Disclaimer for Parents**- *Please be advised that your child will be exposed to mature material to include crime scene photos, decomposition videos, and information regarding criminal cases. Students will research and discuss mature topics including but not limited to rape, serial killers, and the aspects of violent crime. Students will be expected to conduct themselves with a level of maturity when discussing these topics. If, at any time, you feel you longer want your student to participate in my class due to the graphic nature of the material, please notify me immediately.* *A letter was sent home at the beginning of the year advising parents/guardians about the nature of the course. The letter will be kept by Mrs. Lewis in your child’s file.*

**Attendance**

Students will abide by the attendance policy listed in the Piedmont Classical High School Student Handbook. The instructor will take roll within the *first 10 minutes of class*. Any students not present at that time will be marked absent. Students must attend *at least 50%* of the allotted class time to receive credit for being present during class. Any students arriving late to class will not be admitted to classroom without a signed pass or a tardy slip and may be sent to the tardy room for the duration of the class period. Make note: if this occurs, the student is losing out on valuable classroom time with the teacher, so please do not let this happen!

Students who miss class will meet with the instructor immediately upon their return to gather make up assignments and schedule a tutoring session, if necessary. ***Any student who misses class for 3 consecutive days or more will be required to attend a tutoring session***. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

**Class Preparation & Supplies**

Students will arrive to class with all necessary supplies and ready to learn, to include notebook, writing utensils, and assignments to be turned in/reviewed in class.

**Materials**: notebook of any type, composition notebook (for lab reports, preferred

ISBN 4310009460 but general composition notebooks are acceptable), colored pencils, notecards, graph paper, scientific calculator, pens, pencils, ruler (optional).

**Textbook**: *Forensic Science: From the Crime Scene to the Crime Lab*, Saferstein, ISBN: 978-

0135158494

Students will bring the following supplies to class DAILY:

1. An OPEN MIND and a WILLINGNESS TO LEARN!
2. A pen AND a pencil
3. A highlighter

**Grading Scale**

Student assessment of mastery will correspond to the following point system:

A= 90-100 B= 80-89 C= 70-79 D=60-69 F= 59 and below

**PCHS Grading Policy**

Tests/projects=35% Quizzes=25% Participation (classwork, labs, warm-up

exercises, homework)=40%

\*The percentages are subject to change, pending the first board meeting of the year\*

The instructor expects all students to obtain a 75 or better average for the course. Any students that fall below a 75 average on progress reports will receive a phone call to their parents and mandatory tutoring sessions. In addition to tutoring on Tuesdays after school, I will be available from 8:00-8:20 daily for questions or concerns.

**Test Corrections:**All students will be permitted to make test corrections. In order to earn a maximum of 10 points back, a student must complete test corrections, review and study the material, bring the test back to me, and schedule a before or after school time for a verbal assessment within 3 days after the test corrections are completed. This assessment will be based upon the questions the student missed, and they must show me mastery of the concept in order to obtain points.

*If a student receives a failing grade on a summative assignment, he may retest for a grade up to an 70 AFTER attending at least one tutoring session. The student must attend the tutoring session AND retest within one week of notification of a failing grade*.

Tests will be turned back in as Mrs. Lewis has a policy of keeping tests of all students until Midterm and Finals. This way, students will not lose track of their tests between the beginning of the semester and Midterms or Finals, and therefore can use the tests as study guides for cumulative assessments.

**Powerschool Parent Assist and Remind 101:** I will update all grades in Powerschool weekly. Both parents and students can access grades via Powerschool at any time with the previously provided log in information. At the top of this syllabus is my contact info, including email and weebly website. Assignments will be updated on the weebly website regularly. Keep in mind, assignments can change depending on pacing in the classroom. Many of you are familiar with Remind 101. You do not need to download the remind app but can simply sign up for remind by texting the code listed above to phone number 81010. Keep in mind email is my primary form of communication.

**Tardies**: Students are expected to be in class on time. Excessive tardiness disrupts the classroom instruction and exhibits disrespect to the teacher and fellow classmates. Tardiness will be dealt with strictly as per the PCHS student handbook.

**Absences or late work**: It is understood students may have to miss school from time to time. When you have an **excused absence**, you have to make up the work within **three days** of returning to school and can receive up to **full credit** for the make-up work. If you have an **unexcused absence**, you can only receive up to **50% credit** for the work and the make-up work is due within **three days** of returning to school. If you’re out for an extended period of time due to health or extenuating circumstances, I will work with you to get all the work made up in a timely manner. If the work is not completed in those time periods, whether excused or unexcused absence, a ***zero*** will be assigned as the grade. When you are absent, it is up to you to obtain your missing work. There is a file folder at the back of the room labeled for each class by day of the week. Here you can find any missed work in the case of absences. Assignments will be accepted up to 1 day late for a grade of 50%

**Restroom Breaks**

Students are expected to come to class ready to learn. Students should utilize the time they have between class periods to use the restroom. In the rare case of an emergency, a student will be allowed to leave the classroom to use the restroom. Students who ask to use the restroom on a frequent basis will be referred to the office.

**Cell Phone/Electronic Device Policy**

**Cell phones in class will be stored in a classroom organizer or a student backpack.**

You are given only **one warning** for having phones out during class time! PCHS electronics policy states that students cannot use cell phones/earbuds in the classrooms, unless instructed to do an online educational activity by the teacher. If a student is caught using a cell phone during class without permission, the cell phone will be taken up by the instructor and turned into the office. The consequences will strictly follow PCHS’ electronics policy. Any time a student refuses to give an electronic device over to the teacher, an out of school suspension will result.

\*\*Students will store their phones at teachers request during tests and quizzes in the classroom organizer. There are no exceptions. If rules are not followed, then student will be found insubordinate and a referral will be filed with the administration.

**Discipline plan:** Discipline problems are dealt with on a n as needed basis. If there are problems that arise in the classroom, the following format will be used:

**First offense**: Verbal warning/teacher correction

**Second offense**: Phone call home, student/teacher conference, or teacher/parent/student

conference

**Third offense:** Office referral-at any given time if I feel a behavior is severe enough to be sent directly to the Principal’s office, then I will follow through with that decision.

**If you have a PURPOSE for being here, you will be successful, and discipline will not be an issue.**

**P**roductivity

**U**ncompromising Integrity

**R**estrained Speech

**P**ositive Relationships

**O**penness to Feedback

**S**elf-control

**E**ye to the Future

**Lab Safety**

Students will follow the rules and procedure of the laboratory to ensure their safety and the safety of others within the classroom. Any student who violates safety procedures or rules will be subject to disciplinary action.

Rules and Procedures

1. Food and drink are a PRIVILEGE in the classroom. Drinks must be in a sealed, CLEAR container (i.e., no aluminum cans). Students may eat in the classrooms IF AND ONLY IF we are not performing a laboratory-based activity AND they maintain cleanliness. IF THE CLASSROOM BECOMES A PIG STY, THIS PRIVILEGE WILL BE REVOKED.
2. Absolutely NO CELL PHONES and EAR BUDS.
3. Students will ALWAYS wear the appropriate safety equipment- NO EXCEPTIONS
4. Always LISTEN to and follow the instructions EXACTLY as they are given by the instructor.
5. NEVER clean up broken glass or a chemical spill on your own. ALWAYS notify the instructor first.
6. Notify the teacher IMMEDIATELY if you feel your safety or the safety of others is at risk in the lab.
7. Be familiar the location of the safety equipment in the lab and KNOW HOW TO USE IT
8. Absolutely NO HORSEPLAY in the lab. IT IS AN AUTOMATIC OFFICE REFERRAL!

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ID: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Acknowledgement of Classroom Procedures and Lab Safety Requirements**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (parent/guardian name), have read the Forensic Science syllabus and understand that my student will be expected to abide by the rules and guidelines included within. I have discussed the expectations of the class with my student and understand that the success of my child requires communication between the student, parents, and the teacher.

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Parent Signature Date

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (student name), have read the Forensic Science syllabus and understand that I will be expected to abide by the rules and guidelines included within. I will do my best to focus during class and work hard to learn the concepts of Forensic Science. I will try my best and attend tutoring when necessary to make up assignments, retest, or improve my understanding of a difficult concept. I will maintain a positive attitude at all times and respect the role of my instructor.

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Student Signature Date

**Parent Contact Information**:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Language Preference: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Preference: E-MAIL TEXT PHONE CALL

(circle 1st choice)