



Middlesex County Magnet Schools
Piscataway Campus
Course Syllabus
Forensic Science

**Class Information:**

Block: B Day Block 2
Room: C-171

Teacher Information:

Name: Ms. Emily Donnell
Email: donnelle@mcvts.net

Course Description:

Forensic Science is an elective science course. In this course, we will examine science as it relates to the investigation of crime. Forensics utilizes and applies many disciplines of science such as biology, anatomy and physiology, mathematics, chemistry, physics, earth and environmental science to solve crimes. Through a variety of lessons including hands-on activities, labs, and projects, students will learn about the different aspects of forensic science and crime investigation. This course combines basic theory and real laboratory experiments, creating an experiment-based situation for the better understanding of the students. Major topics include:

- Forensics, History and the law
- Processing a crime scene
- Collecting and preserving evidence
- Identifying types of physical evidence
- Organic and inorganic analysis of evidence
- Hair, fibers, and fingerprints
- Toxicology, blood and DNA
- Death and human remains
- Forensic Psychology

Google Classroom:

You should have received an invitation to join Google Classroom in your email. All students MUST sign up for google classroom. All assignments will be posted and submitted here.

Classroom Codes:

B Day Block 2: **dqtri22**

Required Materials:

- Chromebook/laptop provided by the school + charger
- Pens/pencils
- Composition Notebook & folder or binder

Grading Policy/ District Grade Ranges:

The grading system for Forensic Science is as follows:

Assessments 50%
Labs/Projects 30%
Formative Tasks 20%

A+	98-100		C+	76-79
A	92-97		C	72-75
A-	90-91		C-	70-71
B+	86-89		D	65-69
B	82-85		F	0-64
B-	80-81			

Missed Classes/Absences

If you are in school but miss a class, you must bring a pass and make up the work you missed. If you are absent from school, you must make up the work you missed. You will have the number of days that you were absent to make up the work. After that number of days, grading will follow the late work policy.

Late To Class:

Students who arrive after the late bell must have a pass to be excused.

Late Assignments:

Your assignments will be posted at the time your class is scheduled. They will be due by the date and time listed on Google Classroom. Assignments should be submitted by the deadline given. If students choose to submit assignments late, 5 points will be deducted for every additional day they take to complete assignments. Students can submit late work until the end of each unit.

Extra Help:

If you are having trouble with this class, contact me immediately. Ways to get extra help:

- Email me
- Speak to me after class, before school or after school
- Send me a comment on your assignment and we can chat there

Plagiarism, Cheating, and Academic Integrity:

Students should not copy information from websites, books, etc. word for word without citing references. If plagiarism is suspected students will be given a zero for that assignment.

Students should not copy/share assignments with their classmates. If this is suspected students will receive half credit for the assignment.

Classroom Expectations:

The classroom is a place of learning and will be treated as such. You are expected to follow the rules of the classroom in addition to the rules of the school that are stated in the student handbook.

1. **BE RESPECTFUL**- Always communicate respectfully with your teacher and fellow students. Respect each other's learning environment.
2. **BE PROFESSIONAL**- No foul language or inappropriate comments/conversation. Stay off of your phones unless they are being used for an assignment or granted permission.
3. **BE POSITIVE**- Keep a positive mindset and support each other in a positive manner.
4. **ARRIVE ON TIME** -You must be in class **BEFORE** the late bell.
5. **BE FOCUSED, PREPARED AND PRODUCTIVE**- Come to class with all of your supplies and stay on task. Complete your assignments every day. Be sure to read all directions and complete assignments thoroughly.
6. **BE AN ADVOCATE FOR YOURSELF** -If you are having trouble in class, please do not hand in blank assignments and give up. Reach out for help.
7. **WAIT TO BE DISMISSED**- At the end of class, I will give you a few minutes to gather your things. Stay at your table and once the bell rings I will dismiss you and you can leave.
8. **LAB SAFETY**- We are working in a lab environment. It is crucial you follow all lab safety rules for everyone's safety in the classroom. Students will be required to pass a lab safety quiz.

Food and Drinks:

- I firmly believe that if you are hungry, you are not going to be able to successfully learn because you will be too focused on your hunger. Small snacks that do not permit a disturbance to others/foul odor are permitted unless chemicals/hazardous substances are involved in a lab that day.
- I strongly encourage water hydration throughout the day! You will always see me drinking from my large flask. Please feel free to bring a water bottle and drink it throughout class and the day! More water=better health!

Bathroom: Only one male and one female student at a time will be allowed out of the classroom at a time. Students will be required to sign in and out on the clipboard by the door and take a pass.

Cell Phone Policy:

Upon arrival to class students will put their phones on silent and put them in their bags. This includes ear buds and air pods. Cell phones will not be used in class without permission. If a student has their cell phone out, they will be asked to put it away with one warning. If they refuse or the phone is seen a second time, the phone will be confiscated and put in a safe place for the remainder of the class period. **Note: Students are not allowed to make or receive phone calls in class.**

Missing Class for Shop Functions:

If your shop teacher would like you to miss class for any reason you must bring a pass prior to missing the class. Students will only be allowed to miss class if their grade is a 70 or above. All missed work must be completed. If there is a test or quiz that day you will be required to take the test or quiz before going to shop.

Lab Safety:

Science is a hands-on laboratory class. Safety in the science classroom is the number one priority for students, teachers, and parents. To ensure a safe science classroom and laboratory, a list of rules has been developed and provided to you in this student safety contract. These laboratory safety rules must be followed at all times. Both you and your parent or guardian must submit a signed laboratory safety contract before you can participate in laboratory experiments, demonstrations, and other activities.

General Rules

1. Conduct yourself in a responsible manner at all times in the laboratory.
2. Follow all written and verbal instructions carefully. If you do not understand a direction or part of a procedure, ask the teacher before proceeding.
3. When first entering a science room, do not touch any equipment, chemicals, or other materials in the laboratory area until you are instructed to do so.
4. Do not eat food, drink beverages, or chew gum while working in the laboratory.
5. Never fool around in the laboratory. Horseplay, practical jokes, and pranks are dangerous and prohibited.
6. Observe good housekeeping practices. Work areas should be kept clean and tidy at all times. Bring only your laboratory instructions, worksheets, and/or reports to the work area. Other materials (books, purses, backpacks, etc.) should be stored in the classroom area.
7. Be alert and proceed with caution at all times in the laboratory. Notify the instructor immediately of any unsafe conditions you observe.
8. Keep hands away from face, eyes, mouth and body while using chemicals or preserved specimens. Wash your hands with soap and water after performing all experiments. Clean all work surfaces and apparatus at the end of the experiment. Return all equipment clean and in working order to the proper storage area.
9. Students are never permitted in the science storage rooms or preparation areas unless given specific permission by their instructor.
10. Any time chemicals, heat, or glassware are used, students will wear laboratory goggles. There will be no exceptions to this rule.
11. Dress properly for lab activities. Long hair, dangling jewelry, and loose or baggy clothing are hazardous. Long hair must be tied back and dangling jewelry and loose or baggy clothing must be secured. Shoes must completely cover the foot. No sandals allowed.
12. Report any accident (spill, breakage, etc.) or injury (cut, burn, etc.) to the instructor immediately, no matter how trivial it may appear.
13. If a chemical splashes in your eye(s) or on your skin, immediately flush with running water from the eyewash station or safety shower for at least 20 minutes. Chemically contaminated clothing and contact lenses must be removed during the flushing process. Notify the instructor immediately.
14. All chemicals in the laboratory are to be considered dangerous. Do not touch, taste, or smell any chemicals unless specifically instructed to do so. The proper technique for wafting chemical vapors will be demonstrated to you. Never stick your nose into a container to smell a chemical.
15. Never use mouth suction to fill a pipet. Use a rubber bulb or pipet pump.
16. Never handle broken glass with your bare hands. Teacher will use a brush and dustpan to clean up broken glass and Place broken or waste glassware in the designated glass disposal container. Students are Never to touch or place broken glass in the normal garbage can.
17. If you do not understand how to use a piece of equipment, ask the instructor for help before attempting to use it.

Student Contract

I, a student enrolled in Ms. Donnell's Forensic Science class for the 2023/2024 school year have read the syllabus fully by myself and with my parents. I understand all classroom expectations and lab safety rules. By signing on this page, you and your parent state that you have read the syllabus, agree to the rules, requirements and, restrictions of this class. Please note that you will be held accountable for all of the information provided to you here.

Student Name (printed)

Student Name (Signed)

Date

Parent Name (printed)

Parent Name (Signed)

Date

Daytime Phone Number

Parent Email

Please sign and return this page to Ms. Donnell