



Mountain Range High School

12500 Huron Street • Westminster, CO 80234

Office: (720) 972-6300 • Fax: (720) 972-6529

<http://www.mountainrange.adams12.org>

School Year	2020-2021		
Course Name	Forensics		
Course Description	<p>Welcome to Forensic Science at MRHS. This year-long course consists of an in-depth study through classroom lecture, skill development, and laboratory experiences that will explore the science, skills, and legal framework of the forensic science profession. The emphasis of this course is on the scientific basis for forensic investigation; the process of forensic evidence collection, analysis, and documentation; and the application of logic and deductive reasoning to derive meaning and relevance from evidence to support legal proceedings. Laboratory work provides a basis for introducing and reinforcing conceptual understanding of forensic science concepts as well as an opportunity to develop specific skills (i.e. lifting a latent fingerprint). The goal for each student is to acquire a better, logical, understanding of the physical world; the process of collecting, documenting, and using scientific data; and how science is used in real world applications and careers.</p>		
Unit of Study	Content Standards/Grade Level Expectations	Approximate Time Spent or Percent of time Spent	Targeted Date of Assessment
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition, History & Development of Forensics • Functions of the Forensic Scientist 	2 weeks	Late August
Measurements and the Crime Scene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Crime Scene • Measurements • Securing and recording 	3 weeks	Mid September
Post Mortem Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biomolecules & Enzymes • pH • Specific Heat • Concentrations 	3 weeks	Early October
Physical Evidence, Hair, Fiber, and Glass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Types... • Examination of... • Significance of... • Crime Scene Reconstruction • Entomology 	5 weeks	Mid November
Fingerprints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of... • Classification of... • AFIS 	2 weeks	Early December
End of 1st Semester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumulative 1st Semester Assessment • Final Crime Scene 	N/A	12/18-12/20
Toxicology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drugs • Alcohol • Analysis of Blood 	3 weeks	Late January
Serology and Blood Spatter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature of Blood • Pattern Recognition • Heredity 	5 weeks	Mid February
DNA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding DNA • Replication of DNA • Short Tandem Repeats • Polymerase Chain Reaction 	4 weeks	Late March
Vehicle Accident Reconstruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glass • Skid Marks • Momentum 	3 weeks	Mid April
Crime Scene Reconstruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Crime Scene 	3 weeks	Early May



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Course Grading Scale		Assessment/Practice Proficiency Levels	
A	89.5 - 100	4	Advanced Understanding of the Standard
B	79.5 – 89.4	3	Meets the Standard
C	69.5 – 79.4	2	Approaches the Standard
D	59.5 – 69.4	1	Does not Meet the Standard
F	0 – 59.4		

Grade Reporting Criteria/Weights	
Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCI-Content)	50%
Scientific Practices & Engineering	20%
Communication	20%
Practice	10%

Grades are based on achievement of Content Standards and Grade Level Expectations.
***Weekly progress grades are posted at <https://ic.adasm12.org/campus/portal/adams12.isp>**

General Expectations

- Grades are based upon the demonstration of proficiency on units associated within specific grade reporting criteria (GRC).
- **Assessment: 90%** Assessments are a means to determine a student’s mastery and understanding of information, skills, concepts, or processes.
- **Practice: 10%** Practice includes opportunities for students to receive clear, specific, and timely feedback as they are developing knowledge and skills, prior to Assessments.
 - Assessments will be graded based on teacher/district/state rubrics.
 - o Multiple opportunities will be offered on some assessment through the practice of looping content.
 - o There will be no multiple opportunities on assessments that are considered finals.
 - o Multiple opportunities does not mean endless opportunities.
 - o Attendance policy will be followed in the administration of assessments.

Class Expectations

Missing or incomplete assignments/assessments for this course:
 Superintendent Policies 6280 Homework and 6281 Make-Up Work will be followed for this course. They state that it is the student’s responsibility to request and obtain missing work. When a student has an excused absence, the student has the same number of days they were absent plus one day to make up assignments. *Example: A student is **excused** absent, Monday and Tuesday. The student would have Wednesday, Thursday and Friday to make up the work, which would then be due at the beginning of the period on Monday.* Students who are unexcused may not be able to receive feedback from Practice prior to required Assessments.

In order to preserve test security, students may be required to take a missed test immediately upon return from an authorized absence if that student has had the opportunity to access all learning prior to the absence. Students missing a group or individual presentation may also be required to give that presentation upon return. *Example: A test is given on Thursday and a student is absent on that day (authorized, excused), but was present the days prior. This student may be required to take the test on Friday.* In Forensics for Scientific Practices and communication, at least 2 opportunities each semester will be given and the best score will be taken for each category.

Plagiarism/Cheating: Plagiarism means to present, as one’s own, the work, writing, words, ideas or computer information of someone else. These sources could be either published or unpublished. Cheating is supplying, receiving or using inappropriate devices to improve performance on a test or assessment. Students who engage in plagiarism or cheating will be disciplined according to the school discipline matrix.

Weekly Progress: Current grades are accessible through Infinite Campus. A link to Infinite Campus can be found on the Mountain Range website: <http://www.mountainrange.adams12.org/>

Time Frame for Assignments: The teacher will clearly delineate the due date and time frame for all assignments and students will record this information accordingly in their student planners. Students are encouraged to be engaged and motivated in the completion of their assignments.



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