



New York Mills High School

Curriculum Document

Course Name: Forensics Common Course Catalog Number: 04165

Length of Course: 1 Semester Pre-Requisite: None

Grade Level: 10-12

Course Description: Forensics will introduce the student to how crime is solved through the eyes of both scientist and a law official. In Forensics, the student will spend half of his or her time being introduced to the Criminal Justice System. This includes everything that happens to a person from arrest through prosecution and conviction to releases from the state. The other half of Forensics will include acquainting the student to the newest branch of science, Forensic Criminalistics. Activities will range from basic crime scene processing to soil analysis, fingerprint recognition to handwriting comparisons. A concentrated effort will be made to try and provide the opportunity for students to meet with both local and state experts in regards to both the criminal justice process and forensics. A final project of incorporating both the scientific and legal aspects of crime is a strong possibility. Standards from the National Council for the Social Studies will be addressed in this class.

Essential Learner Outcomes (5 to 7):

- 1. The student will be able to describe the relationship of forensics and the law.**
- 2. The student will be able to explain the relevance of specific court cases to current forensics practices.**
- 3. The student will be able to describe typical courtroom proceedings.**
- 4. The student will be able to explain the importance of the work of various forensics pioneers.**

5. The student will be able to understand how the development of technology is important to forensics.
6. The student will be able to explain the importance of the Criminal Justice System and understand the role that law, lawyers, law enforcement officers, and the legal system play in our society.

Units of Study:

The following four chapters will be addressed and are expected to read while studying the Criminal Justice Process (from the Street Law text):

§ Chapter 12 – The Criminal Justice Process: The Investigation Phase

§ Chapter 13 – Criminal Justice Process: Proceedings Before Trial

§ Chapter 14 – Criminal Justice Process: The Trial

§ Chapter 15 – Criminal Justice Process: Sentencing and Corrections

The following three chapters will be addressed and are expected to read while studying Forensic Criminalistics:

§ Chapter 1 – The Process (includes the make-up a forensics team, the crime scene, a look at physical evidence, and the science of forensics)

§ Chapter 2 – Sources of Evidence (hairs, fibers, and flakes, toxicology and drugs, serology, fingerprints, DNA Analysis, Firearms, Marks and Impressions, and Documents

§ Chapter 3 – Electronic Sleuthing (voice analysis, computer analysis, and the web)