

Shawn Sheehan, M.S., M.Ed. [ssheehan@epsd.us](mailto:ssheehan@epsd.us) 413-529-1585 x2505 Room: 321



**Forensic Science** is an investigative course that examines how science helps to solve crimes. Students will learn how different types of evidence are analyzed, the procedures for processing crime scenes, and how scientific principles are applied to legal matters. Topics will include fingerprint analysis, hair and fiber comparison, serology, DNA, and crime scene analysis. The course will revolve around a crime scene investigation project during which teams will work to solve a case using scientific and forensic skills. This course prepares students for careers in law enforcement and criminal justice.

**About Mr. Sheehan:** I have taught science at Easthampton High School for over 20 years. I went to graduate school at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and earned two masters degrees in Chemistry and Education. I also worked at Monsanto in the chemical research and development division making a plastic interlayer that makes automobile windshields safer during vehicular collisions.

#### Requirements:

- The following materials are required for each class: 3-ring binder (or folder & notebook) and pen (or pencil).
- Students are expected to devote some time outside of class completing assignments or studying.

#### Daily Behavioral Expectations:

1. Students will follow all EHS student handbook rules.
2. Students will treat others with respect.
3. Students will arrive to class on time, sit in their assigned seats, and work diligently throughout the class.
4. Students will not wear ear buds or headphones in class, unless permission is granted.
5. Students will not use cell phones during class discussions, labs, and when completing assignments, unless permission is granted.
6. Students will only use hardware, equipment, and chemicals when authorized and according to procedures outlined.
7. Students can consume small snacks in seating area only and will clean up food and spills. No eating or drinking in lab area or when using computers.
8. Students will follow all laboratory safety rules. Students will be removed from labs if classroom behavior is unacceptable.
9. Students will be held responsible for loss or damage to school materials.
10. Infraction of above will result in a private discussion and may involve consequences.

#### Assessment:

- **Quarter Grades:** Quizzes: 40%                      Assignments, Labs, Projects (ALP): 60%
- **Semester Grade:** Final Exam: 20%              Each Quarter Grade: 40%

#### PowerSchool Portal:

- Can be accessed through the district web site: <https://ps.epsd.us>
- Grades for assignments will be posted within two weeks of the assignment due date.
- If an assignment is late it may take up to two weeks from the time submitted to post it.

#### Extra Help:

Students needing extra help should make an appointment by notifying me at least one (1) school day in advance to stay after until 2:50 P.M. or to come in early at 7:10 A.M., weather permitting. It is the student's responsibility to obtain parent/guardian permission.

#### Re-Take Policy for Quizzes

1. **Re-takes are given when classes are not in session (i.e. before school, after school, or other block).**
2. One re-take is permitted for each quiz.
3. The new quiz grade is calculated by averaging the re-take grade twice along with the original quiz grade.
4. Re-takes are only available for quizzes.

#### Make up Policy:

- Students who have been absent are required to make-up missed assignments.
- Students have two, (2) school days from the absence to make up assignments, unless another date is arranged with the teacher.
- Students should e-mail [ssheehan@epsd.us](mailto:ssheehan@epsd.us) for missed assignments by 12:30 P.M. on the day of the absence **or** contact the counseling administrative assistant to have work brought to the counseling office for pickup by a family member or friend.

#### Cheating Policy:

Students are expected to do their own work and uphold an academic code of honor, even if working on a team. If there is positive evidence of cheating, consequences will be applied to all students involved according to the policies outlined in the student handbook.

**EPSD Moodle:** Some course materials are on the Moodle server.

- Students must use their own Moodle account issued to them to post or do graded assignments.
- Parents/Guardians can look at course materials by going to: <https://moodle.epsd.us> and click on 'login as a guest' button. Click on EHS Science Department, click on the Forensic Science course and put in the password: **(disclosed on paper copy)**.



This course will help students practice the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Expectations and Core Values and Beliefs.

### **Mission Statement:**

The mission of EHS is to educate and nurture our students to grow as active learners. Every student is encouraged and challenged to their full potential in meeting our academic, civic and social expectations.

### **21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Expectations:**

- **Engaged Collaborative, Reflective and Flexible Learner** - Demonstrates collaboration and flexibility and is self-reflective in an inclusive environment.
- **Active and Complex Thinker** - Solves complex problems with multiple steps by accessing prior knowledge, choosing an appropriate method and using higher order thinking.
- **Growth Mindset Learner** - Approaches learning tasks with a growth mindset that emphasizes effort, perseverance and skill over intelligence and innate ability. (e.g. revisions, retakes, staying for help, asking questions, taking risks, strategizing, self-assessing skills, not self-deprecating, using growth mindset language-yet, remediating assignments)
- **Logical, Effective and Creative Communicator** - Communicates with clarity, creativity, and focus with consideration of audience.
- **Empathetic Community Member** - Actively engages in and contributes to the school, virtual and/or local communities. Respects and keeps an open mind about other points of view.
- **Skilled Consumer/Processor of Information** - Uses multiple forms of media, including technology, as a resource to access, analyze, and evaluate information, foster creativity, enhance communication and increase productivity.

### **Core Value and Beliefs:**

#### **Nurture Value: Nurturing a Safe Inclusive and accepting Environment (social) *EHS community believes...***

- Students learn best when they feel safe, both physically and emotionally, in a supportive, positive and affirming environment.
- Diversity and equality are valued, and all are embraced through collective responsibility.

#### **Encourage Value: Encourage Complex Learning with a Growth Mindset (academic) *EHS community believes...***

- All students can engage in complex learning when given high expectations, appropriate supports and the opportunity to engage in relevant 21<sup>st</sup> century learning.
- Perseverance, risk-taking, self-assessment and academic integrity are skills necessary for developing a growth mindset.
- Students learn best when they are in an environment that models, encourages and practices growth mindset and can take an active role in their learning, discipline and future goals.

#### **Support Value: Supporting School and Community Engagement (civic) *EHS community believes...***

- Students will feel included, safe and valued when they take an active role in the classroom, school, and community.

#### **Together Value: Together we Teach and Learn with Respect and Effective Practices *EHS community believes...***

- Students learn best when faculty and staff engage in research-based, reflective, inclusive, and collaborative practices around teaching and learning.
- Students learn best when respect is embedded in school culture.

Assignment

Due Date: Thursday, January 30, 2020

Please sign this page indicating that you have read the Course Policies and the EHS Laboratory Safety Rules and return it to class. **It is recommended that students keep their Course Policy sheet and the EHS Science Safety Rules for future reference.**

STUDENT

\_\_\_\_\_, a student of Mr. Sheehan’s class has read the course policies and the EHS Science Safety Rules.  
(print name)

I am aware of the standards set forth and I understand the consequences for not meeting the regulations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student e-mail address (please print)

PARENT/GUARDIAN

I \_\_\_\_\_, being the parent/guardian of the above student have read the details of  
(print name)

the course policies and the EHS Science Safety Rules. I am aware of my obligations and I understand that my student must follow the standards set forth. I also understand that I can get access to my student’s grades through the PowerSchool portal and I will give the teacher two, (2) weeks to grade and post assignments to the system.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone Number (7:00 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.)

Preferred communication \_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_ daytime phone number (7:00 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.)

**Lab Safety Questions:**

Do you wear contact lenses? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Are you color blind? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Do you have allergies? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

If so, list specific allergies \_\_\_\_\_



**Please bring the following supplies to class:**

- Pen or Pencil
- 3-Ring binder OR folder containing handouts given in class.

These items should be brought to class **every day**.

Forgetting materials shouldn’t be an everyday routine but a rare occurrence during the semester. If this rare event happens, materials will be provided for students to borrow to complete assignments, only if extra supplies are available.