 **Welcome to Honors Forensic Science**

**With Mr. Setzer!**

**Email: Noah.Setzer@ucps.k12.nc.us**

**Porter Ridge High: 704-292-7662**

**Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s),**

Hi, and welcome to Mr. Setzer’s Honors Forensic Science class! I am very excited to work alongside you and your student to make this a fun and successful semester. This is a science elective course for students who have been successful in other science classes. Students are expected to work hard and stay on task during class and be willing to complete homework assignments on a regular basis. Forensic science involves challenging, analytical problem solving, hands-on simulation activities and project-based learning. Due to the fast pace of the course, each student may fall behind at times. Students must know that the ultimate responsibility for learning is on them, so they must take initiative to ask for help, attend tutoring, and study and work a little extra in order to reach their potential in the class.

I believe that **support from home is the most essential part** of each student’s success. It is important that you keep up with your student’s grades and attendance, which you can do online through the Parent Portal! Please be mindful that a report card will be sent home every six weeks, and that progress reports are available halfway between report cards.

If you ever have questions or concerns about your student, please feel free to contact me via email at **Noah.Setzer@ucps.k12.nc.us**. You may also reach me by calling Porter Ridge. Please complete the contact information listed below so that I may contact you should the need arise. Thank you for your cooperation. I look forward to a successful year!

Sincerely,

Noah Setzer

**Supply List for Forensic Science** (bring these every day!)

1. ½ or 1-Inch Three-Ring Binder
2. Notebook Paper & Pencils
3. 6 Notebook Dividers w/ tabs
4. Colored Pencils, Scissors, glue sticks, and red pens are highly recommended (some will be provided in class)
5. Google ChromeBook (school-issued laptop computer)

**Course Description:** Students will learn about crime scene investigation from the perspective of law enforcement, the court system, psychology, and the laboratory.

**Main Topics of the Course:**

- Misconceptions about Crime Scene Investigation

- The History of Forensic Science

- How to Collect Evidence and Document a Crime Scene

- How Evidence Is Used in Criminal and Civil Court

- How Evidence is Analyzed in the Forensics Lab (Fingerprints, Blood, Hair, DNA, Ballistics, Autopsies, etc.)

- The Psychology of Criminal Behavior

**Online Access:** Many course materials and assignments will be accessed and/or submitted through the ***Canvas*** online learning platform. The grade book is accessed through ***PowerSchool***.

**Homework:** As this is an elective course, the workload is not intended to be cumbersome. Assignments that are not completed in class will be finished for homework. However, most students who stay focused during class tend to finish the majority of their work during class time. There will be two major projects that will require collaborative work with other students outside of school. Please contact me if you find that your student’s homework load is excessive.

**OFFICE HOURS**! After school every **Tuesday and Thursday 3:00 – 3:30**, or other times by appointment. Students may come to receive extra support in a one-on-one or small group environment. When a student is misses a day of class, I expect that he/she will attend office hours to catch up on lessons and make up assignments.

**Grading:** Students should assume that every assignment will be graded unless otherwise stated. Grades are by category, with each assignment in a category having its own weight.

***Estimate of point values for different assignments:***

**Tests**: 40%

**Quizzes:** 20%

**Classwork/Homework**: 30%

**Active Participation**: 10%

**Additional Resources**: “EmpowerED Family Portal” Link:

***https://www.ucps.k12.nc.us/domain/2917***

This page provides parents with links to online resources and apps that students can access.