

Parent Information

Please read over this entire syllabus

What is the Law & Justice Program? This program seeks to prepare students to work in careers like lawyers, judges, police, forensics, federal law enforcement, public safety, and similar areas. We also prepare students to be more successful in school by focusing on improving study skills, reading proficiency, composition, and similar skill sets critical to success in high school and the post-secondary environment. We are a career and technical educational program.

What is Career and Technical Education (Career/Tech)? In previous generations vocational education provided courses like sewing, woodworking, and similar courses that were viewed as “electives.” These programs no longer exist. Education research showed that students needed comprehensive career preparation. About 17 years ago Georgia began career/tech education programs to replace vocational education. Career/tech classes teach academic content in the context of career subjects. Science, math, language arts, and even art are all incorporated in some elements of each course. When students participate in a career/tech education program they are able to better understand their overall educational picture because they are applying what they have learned in other courses to real world situations. Career/tech programs are also viewed as programs of study where students plan their high school schedules to take at least three years of career/tech courses in their area of study. Often the program of study is extended to include post-secondary plans. Students who participate in career/tech educational programs are more likely to participate in post-secondary education (college), more likely to have realistic career goals, more likely to be employed in jobs they like, and – in some subgroups – more likely to graduate high school. Most Law and Justice Program graduates identify the program as having the most positive influence in their high school experience.

Do students always go into Law and Justice Careers? No, and that is not our objective. About 50% of students indicate a career goal in the areas we teach. After 9 years I have several students in law school, local police officers, 2 federal agents, 2 lawyers and about 20 others in some field related to the program – and these are just the students who have contacted the program. But former graduates are also nurses, teachers, and even entrepreneurs. Over 90% of my last graduating class went to college. 98% graduated high school on time. Many graduates return to praise the program for helping them prepare for college and life in general – ***which is our objective!***

What is Skills USA? Skills USA is a co-curricular student organization. Skills USA also holds competitions in skill areas associated with our program of study. Skills USA seeks to round out career skills.

Are students required to be in Skills USA? No. However, we highly encourage each student to join! Skills USA participation is the most popular way to get Professional Development Points (detailed later in the syllabus), but there are numerous other ways for students to earn those points.

Communication: Parents are encouraged to communicate openly with the instructor with any issues, concerns, or input. The instructor is highly approachable and values parental participation.

Eagle's Landing High School



2023- 2024 Course Syllabus

Course Title: Intro to Law and Justice

Instructor: Mr. Adrian Carney

Resources: Eagle's Landing High School Media Center
Criminal Justice Computer Lab and Internet Stations
Various CD-ROMs and software programs
Numerous guest speakers

Description: Introduction to Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security (LPSCS) is the prerequisite for all other courses within the Career Cluster. This course provides students with career-focused educational opportunities in various LPSCS fields. It examines the basic concepts of law related to citizens' rights and their responsibilities. Students will also receive instruction in critical skill areas including: communicating with diverse groups, conflict resolution, ethics, CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Training, or similar program), basic firefighting, report writing, terrorism, civil and criminal law. Career planning and employability skills will be emphasized.

Contact: Parents and students should feel free to email me: adrian.carney@henry.k12.ga.us

Conferences: Conferences will be scheduled upon request. Every effort will be made to accommodate parent schedules. Email or call the counseling department to arrange a conference.

Help: The instructor is available each morning for assistance, with the exception of Friday mornings. Afternoon time may be requested.

Program This program strives to prepare students for careers in all areas of criminal justice.

Ideals: Critical in all areas of study are various qualities we want to develop in our students. The three key program ideals were formulated from these various qualities. Our program ideals are Valor, Integrity, and Service.

Valor - bravery in the face of adversity.

Integrity - not only knowing what is right, but choosing it.

Service - dedicating time and energy to make our community better.

Expectations: In addition to the student responsibilities outlined by the school, the following procedures will be followed in this class:

Racism (and other isms) will not be tolerated
Treat others with respect
Honesty is EXPECTED
Be on time
Find solutions, not excuses
Act responsibly

Classroom Students not complying with classroom rules will be disciplined according to the HCH/AAS policy. All rules identified in the student agenda will be enforced.

Attendance: Attendance is critical for a student to fully benefit from this program. Many skills taught are not offered again after their presentation in class. Frequently students who are absent also affect other students due to the use of group learning. Unexcused absences also have a direct detrimental effect on student's grades. Tardiness is handled by the administration.

Units

1. Employability skills required by business and industry.
2. Careers in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security.
3. Cultural differences in LPSCS
4. Conflict resolution
5. Structure of public safety agencies
6. Missions, strategies, policies, and management styles
7. Constitutional law related to LPSCS
8. Report writing
9. Ethical and legal issues within LPSCS
10. Disaster preparedness
11. First Aid
12. Search and rescue
13. Crisis management
14. Terrorism
15. Skills USA

Media: The program uses various videos, DVDs, audio tapes, programs, and similar media that may contain profanity, nudity, and/or gruesome images as a part of the class. While all efforts are made to minimize such material, it is sometimes unavoidable in the course of addressing some course content (i.e. autopsies). Never is such material used in a gratuitous manner. Parents are encouraged to discuss any concerns with the instructor.

Evaluation: 50% **Unit Assessments** – Projects, Tests, and other assessments.

10% **Final Exam** – Each semester has a comprehensive final.

20% **Lab Grade** – based on participation and completion of assignments

10% **Homework** – Most assignments will be chapter studies where students will write a reading portfolio.

A variety of other activities will be assigned.

5% **Employability Rating** – Students will be graded in a variety of areas. Responsibility completion, independent study, cooperative learning, preparedness (having notebook, pen, paper, assignments), and other activities.

5% **SRS & Quizzes** – see details below

100% Total

Professional As a major objective of career and technical education, preparation for the professional

Development: Most professions require ongoing job skill development and membership in professional organizations. To initiate such preparation, this program requires students to earn points demonstrating professional development. There are several ways to achieve the needed points.

1. Participation in SkillsUSA, Explorers, and/or Mock Trial Team. In these activities points are assigned in the following ways. Participation in an activity during or adjacent to the school day, such as attending meetings, or participation in after school hours or weekend activities.
2. Points may also be approved for student participation in other activities.

Labs: Labs are hands-on learning experiences. Labs range in topics from basic self-defense and handcuffing to fingerprinting and first aid. Students may receive a zero for a lab due to behavior that could result in injury or not wearing appropriate attire.

Lab Attire: Due to the hands-on nature of labs, students will have a mandatory dress code for lab days. They are required to wear a shirt that covers the same area as a t-shirt (as worn by most adults). It is strongly encouraged that students purchase a program t-shirt and wear these on lab days (order forms are on an attached page). It is preferred that the student wears long pants, but **modest** shorts are permissible. Shoes must be rubber soled with a non-skid surface that completely covers the toes. High heels, **sandals**, bare feet, and cowboy boots are prohibited. Students not dressed appropriately will not participate and will receive a zero for that day's lab grade.

Special Note: There are a few issues I'd like for you to be aware of as we cover some mature content. First, we will talk about sad things that happen to people. Homicide and sex crimes are discussed in this class. Hopefully, your young adult will learn to be more aware of the dangers in our society. But especially with the studies of death, your student may for the first time, really think about the finality of death. It is a good time to start a dialog with your child about these issues. I am always available for concerns or suggestions

Second, we will cover unusual material. Students will see a video on autopsies. Obviously, cadavers are not clothed and some nudity may be a part of other presentations. This will always be done tastefully and minimally. These issues make up a very small percent of what we study, but it might come up in class discussions. Feel free to email me with any questions (vincent.simpsons@henry.k12.ga.us)

SRS/Quizzes: During instruction, after reading assignments, and as parts of labs, assessments will be used to evaluate student understanding. In addition to paper quizzes, the Student Response System (SRS) will be used.

Notebooks: Students are expected to maintain their notebook. These may be left on the designated shelf in the classroom. Notebooks are where all assignments are stored. Notebooks will be checked sporadically for assignment completion.

Students must have a 3 ring binder or spiral notebook.

Late Work: Various assignments will be identified as critical. In those cases NO late work will be accepted. For others, each school day an assignment is late a letter grade will be taken away.

Make-Up: It is the student's responsibility to get assignments missed and to complete them. Students have seven (5) calendar days from the day they return to school with which to complete **ALL** make up work. **Exemptions** to this must be negotiated **on the day** the student returns to school. Failure to make up work in this time frame will result in a ZERO. Please also note that all unexcused absences (per school policy) have a 10%/10 point penalty. Days for make-ups are daily at 7:50 AM. Appointments set a day in advance are required.

Recovery: Opportunities designed to allow students to recover from a low or failing cumulative grade will be allowed when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance.

Students should contact the teacher concerning recovery opportunities. Teachers are expected to

establish a reasonable time period for recovery work to be completed during the semester. All recovery work must be directly related to course objectives and must be completed ten school days prior to the end of the semester.

Teachers will determine when and how students with extenuating circumstances may improve their grades.

Plagiarism: Dishonesty is not tolerated. This is especially true in submitted work. Any thought that is not your own used in assessments must be noted. Assume all work assignments are to be your own work unless told otherwise. A copy of the Academy for Advanced Studies/Henry County citation policy is available in the Media Center. NOTE: I use various plagiarism programs when evaluating student work. Any student who cheats or plagiarizes will face the full penalty that the school provides through the honor code policy.

Media Release: The Law & Justice Program as well as Skills USA is active in many community events, and our activities are frequently published in local newspapers, newsletters, and publications. Students are often photographed, interviewed, and quoted for use in such media. Please contact the instructor with any questions or concerns.

Place this syllabus in your class notebook!
