

# Law and Public Safety teaches facets of criminal justice system, basics of first-responders' duties

Special to The Clinton Courier

Clinton High School junior Maria Renee Serratos plans to go into the criminal justice field for her career.

"I heard about the Law and Public Safety class and thought it sounded interesting," she said. "We have learned about amendments and laws, gun safety and self defense."

Serratos is one of twenty-five first-year students in the program at the CHS Career Complex. Instructor Jeff Franks covers the curriculum on a timeline that begins with a crime, the investigation of that crime, an arrest, and the judicial processes that will follow leading to a conviction and incarceration.

"We began with a study of various misdemeanor and felony crimes, leading into the investigative portion of the timeline," Franks said. "This includes the rights of citizens under the Bill of Rights, crime scene processing, and suspect and witness interviews."

They are also studying DUI investigations with the help of two Clinton Police Department officers. Students have the opportunity to visit relevant off-campus sites, as well.

Field trips include the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum (Constitutional law), Camp Shelby (leadership), Mississippi Forensics Laboratory (forensic science and crime scenes) and the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility (corrections).

The second year of Law and Public Safety began with students studying the Community Emergency Response Team training and certification program.

"This program lays out a foundation of skills in leadership, emergency management, emergency medicine and fire services and provides students with the skills and knowledge to be safe before and after a

disaster, and to help families and communities after a disaster," said course instructor Col. Tim Prater.

Second-year students also studied emergency management and how the industry standard Incident Command System applies across all fields of law and public safety.

"Students recently began the unit on the fire services and will be exposed to the skills and knowledge of a firefighter," Prater said.

A key part of the Law and Public Safety curriculum is exposing students to the professionals and facilities in the field. They have taken three field trips, one to Camp Shelby to experience a military post, one to the State Crime Lab to learn more about forensic science and crime scene investigations, and one to the State Fire Academy.

"It's very hands-on," second-year Law and Public Safety student Nadia Albatnigi said, "We have learned about the Fire Academy, we've learned CPR and a lot more. I would recommend it to anyone."

This spring, students are studying skills and knowledge associ-



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Law and Public Safety I students participated in a field trip to the Mississippi Forensic Laboratory in Pearl. While there, students were introduced to the career field of forensic anthropology. First-year students pictured include Faith Brown, Sunshine Springer and Alayna Zetterholm.

ated with a certified Emergency Medical Responder.

"We will continue our study of the fire services, and we will also be looking at the public and private security career field," Prater said.



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Students participated in a self-defense clinic related to their development of basic law enforcement skills. Martial arts skills reviewed by the students included the utilization of basic grappling techniques. Students pictured include Trisha Patel and Jairen Williams.



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On a field trip to Camp Shelby near Hattiesburg, students engaged in activities designed to develop leadership skills necessary for public safety careers. In addition, they visited the armed forces museum and static displays of military equipment. Students pictured include Dejea Sweezer, Keariel Bracey, Mohit Kocker and Deliu Stephens.



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Students in the Law and Public Safety II course at the CHS Career Complex learn the basics of first responders' duties, including administering aid and safely transporting injured people.

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3 YEARS



5 YEARS



8 YEARS

