



Welcome to 8th Grade!

Summer 2023

Dear Rising 8th Grade Families,

Welcome to 8th Grade at The Franklin School of Innovation! We look forward to helping this be your child's best school year yet. For those of you with students who have already been attending Franklin, you may recognize three familiar faces on the 8th grade team, Mrs. Dallara (ELA), Mrs. Gordon (Science), and Mr. Wilson (Social Studies). We are adding a new member to our team, Mr. McManus, who will be teaching Math. Beyond introducing ourselves and saying, "Welcome!" We also want to take this opportunity to overview some expectations we have for our students and families, and in turn let you know what you can expect from us.

From students, we expect everyone to help contribute to a positive classroom culture. A positive classroom culture is one where we speak and listen respectfully, maintain a growth mindset, arrive prepared to work and learn, and take care of our campus and materials. We expect students to follow the dress code and guidelines of our school, and to show every adult at school the same respect they show their classroom teachers.

From our parents, we ask for your patience and support as much as you can offer it. We are entirely committed to the success of every child, and our goals are the same as yours - we want the best for your child! We will have around one hundred students to work with each day, and concerns, conflicts, and needs will arise. Let us show students that we are working together towards common goals, and provide a model of cooperation throughout the year.

From your teachers, you should expect us to know your child as an individual. We will strive to make personal connections with every student, to know their strengths and weaknesses, and to push every student towards academic and personal growth. You can expect us to make decisions based upon your child's best interest and to get timely communication from us when a concern arises. You can expect us to help, to guide, to encourage, to model the values and behaviors we teach, and to push students to do more than they ever thought they could.

We are very excited to kick off what we hope will be the best year yet at Franklin. Below you will find a brief introduction from each of your core teachers.

English-Language Arts

Students in ELA classes can expect to be challenged daily to analyze, describe, compare, revise, develop, organize, collaborate, and reflect. Students will read and write daily in addition to participating in classroom discussions and activities. In reading, we will emphasize the concepts of reading deeply, gathering evidence, and analyzing text. In writing, we will emphasize sentence, paragraph, and essay structure; incorporation of quotations, and clarity of message. The content standards for 8th grade ELA create many opportunities for cross-curricular instruction and projects.

Social Studies

The 8th grade SS curriculum focuses on both United States and North Carolina history. The course will be organized thematically, rather than chronologically, and students will have the opportunity to explore units of study in depth. The course will provide many opportunities for interdisciplinary project-based learning, so students can expect to study primary documents as well as plays, photographs, novels, and poetry; to learn how to construct sound, logical arguments; to practice public speaking by engaging in debates, offering speeches, and conducting interviews; and to inquire about the world around them, investigating the ways in which history is relevant to our everyday lives.

Science

The curriculum in 8th grade science will focus on chemistry, life science, and the Earth's systems. Emphasis is placed on matter, energy, evolution of the earth, environmental awareness, and the cycles that circulate energy and material through the Earth system. More specifically, students will look in detail at matter, properties of matter, and what initiates changes in matter. They will explore the energy on Earth and how it is conserved through cycles. Students will look at the processes and systems occurring on Earth and how those processes drive continuous cycles to maintain equilibrium on our planet. Finally, students will study the Earth's hydrosphere, with respect to our watershed, and learn how water drives life on our planet both locally and globally. The 8th grade Expedition, "Water is Life", engages students in real work of research and field scientists as they examine water quality issues in Hominy Creek and the French Broad River basin, and participate in service learning and field work.

Math

8th Grade Math and Math 1. Here is a simple breakdown of what to expect this upcoming year. 8th Grade Math will focus on three critical areas of mathematics: 1) Formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations. 2) Grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships. 3) Analyzing

two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. Math 1 will dive deeper into each of the three critical areas of 8th grade math. We will explore the linear, quadratic, and exponential relationships between two variables. The class will investigate a variety of functions and how they are used to describe mathematical relationships. Lastly, we will analyze geometric patterns and relationships on the coordinate plane.

Resource and Inclusion (IEP/504)

Students will continue to work towards goals through their current Individual Education Program if applicable. This will include both resource and inclusion time stated in the service minutes agreed upon for each student who falls in this category. Students can expect to work in small-groups and/or one-on-one to gain skills necessary to accomplish each goal. These resource/inclusion times will be scheduled throughout the week for each student while incorporating their accommodations and modifications.

Assessments and Character Development

In all eighth grade core classes, we will focus heavily on FSI's Habits of Scholarship to develop lifelong learning skills, including organization and communication skills. A student's grade will be a culmination of classwork, assessments, and projects and the contents of their notebook/binder.

CREW Leaders:

Brandie Dallara- 8th Grade ELA
Kyle Wilson- 8th Grade Social Studies
Makesha Gordon - 8th Grade Science
Kevin McManus - 8th Grade Math
Rhneea Riddle- 8th Grade Math Intervention Specialist
Donnie Stahlke- 8th Grade EC
Sagan Pizzingrilli- Dean of Students
Sandi Wilson- 7th-12th grade Music



8th Grade School Supply List

Required - for individual student use:

Every student is expected to come to school prepared with pencils and paper EVERY DAY.

Social Studies Supply List: 1 inch 3 ring binder, loose leaf notebook paper, composition journals, highlighters, pencils & handheld pencil sharpener, glue stick, scotch tape, colored pencils

Science Supply List: 2 composition journals, 1-2" binder, notebook paper, pencils, colored pencils, highlighters, scissors, 1 roll of paper towels, and disinfectant wipes.

Math Supply List:

8th Grade Math: Pencils, colored pencils, protractor, and ruler.

Optional: Tracing paper ([patty paper](#) works perfect as tracing paper), personal calculator (scientific calculators are available in classroom), graph paper, and scissors

Math 1: Pencils, colored pencils, protractor, and ruler.

Optional: Tracing paper ([patty paper](#) works perfect as tracing paper), graph paper, and scissors. Students will need a graphing calculator. A calculator such as a TI-83 or TI-84 is a good option. These can be pricey so if you do choose to get one for your students a great place to check is pon shops outside of universities and colleges.

ELA Supply List: Each student will need 1 composition notebook, a package of colored pencils, 1 highlighter, 1 two-pocket folder with 3 prongs, and a small package of pencils. Optional additional supplies for class use: package of loose-leaf, college-ruled paper, dry erase markers, index cards, glue sticks, Sharpies.

Core Classroom Supplies Wishlist (optional, shared supplies for the classroom)

- Clorox Wipes
- Gallon Ziplock bags
- Extra pencils
- Whiteboard markers

***Art Supply List:**

- #2 pencil x 2
- white art eraser
- 2 or more fine tip sharpies
- 2 or more broad tip sharpies
- 1 container disinfectant wipes
- 1 roll paper towels

*These supplies will be combined with many other supplies and equipment provided by the school such as clay, paint, pastels, papers, markers and more!

Music Supply List

All supplies and items needed will be sent out to students and parents of each music class. Please expect a letter by early July.

Our Wish list if you would like to donate to help Visual Arts and families in need at FSI:

- Colored Sharpies
- Fine tip black Sharpies
- Broad tip black Sharpies
- Prismacolor colored pencils
- Ebony pencils
- Oil pastels
- Chalk pastels
- 11x17 copy paper
- white art erasers
- #2 pencils
- Micron Pens any size
- Facial Tissues
- disinfectant wipes
- hand sanitizer

Fees: There is a one-time \$15.00 consumables fee, which covers things like expedition materials, science labs, supplemental reading books, workbooks and other instructional consumable materials. The school will send out invoices for the consumables fee through email at the beginning of the school year which can be paid online or by cash or check.

Field trips generally require additional fees, and we will provide specific information on those opportunities when we are able to schedule them. If these take place the school will again send out invoices via email which can be paid online or with cash or check.

Note about supplies

Materials on this list do not need to be new, just in good working shape. Feel free to reuse materials from previous years that students already have. Please consider, if you are able, donating an extra bag of supplies for those who cannot.

If you are not able to afford supplies, please email the grade level lead, Brandie Dallara at bdallara@thefsi.us to let us know. We will do our best to provide supplies to any child that is not able to afford them. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Brandie Dallara (ELA)

Mr. Kyle Wilson (Social Studies)

Mrs. Kesha Gordon (Science)

Mr. Kevin McManus (Math)

Mr. Donnie Stahlke (EC)