



July 2022

**Dear Families,**

*Welcome to 7th Grade at The Franklin School of Innovation!* It is very exciting to start the new school year with what we know is a stellar class of returning students, and we look forward to meeting all the new faces, too. 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 handbook, 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. Each of us is entirely committed to the success of every child, but while you have one son or daughter in our class, please remember that we have many sons and daughters to work with each day. Please remember that when you approach us about conflicts, concerns, or the needs of your child, that our goals are the same as yours: we want the best for him or her! Let us show students that we are working together towards our common goals, and provide a model of cooperation through this process.

***From your teachers***, you should expect us to know your child as an individual. We will strive to make personal connections to every student, to know all of 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 or if you email or call us with a concern of your own. 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. As school commences, you should look for more information from each teacher regarding his or her class. In the meantime, here is a brief overview of our core classes to get you started:

**English-Language Arts with Mr. Gallow**

Students in ELA can expect to read and write on a daily basis, as well as to participate in daily class discussions. In reading, we will emphasize the concepts of reading deeply, gathering evidence, and analyzing the text. I will push students as writers to develop strategies to organize their thoughts into well reasoned arguments, to be persistent with revising their work, and to use writing as a tool for reflection and communication. Moreover, I hope to help students find joy in both of these crucial skills, and to successfully encourage them to become lifelong learners.

### **Science with Mr. Liu**

Seventh grade junior scientists engage in scientific practices and ways of thinking. We will build on the inquiry skills they developed in sixth grade by strengthening their abilities to form explanations based on evidence, use models to understand phenomena, and design and conduct experiments. We will explore physical life and earth science, topics including cells, genetics, human body systems, force and motion, electricity and magnetism, and weather and climate. Students will apply their math and literacy skills in science as we work with graphs and elements of scale and practice non-fiction reading and scientific writing throughout the year. My hope for every student is that they maintain an attitude of curiosity as we work to answer questions about the natural world.

### **Math with TBD**

Students in 7th grade math class will reinforce the concepts of the operations with rational numbers and solving single variable equations. We will focus on rates and ratios with an in-depth study on the relationships between fractions, decimals, and percentages. Students will increase their understanding of solving one-step equations and using this knowledge towards solving multi-step equations. Student inquiry will be based on problem-based tasks throughout the year. Students will be assessed by tests, quizzes, projects, and their notebook.

### **Social Studies with Mr. Grace Nyanga**

Seventh grade Junior Historians will continue to build on the knowledge and skills they investigated in 6th grade with an examination of the world from the Age of Exploration to the modern day. I am looking forward to a very rewarding year for your child in their academic endeavors. My goal is to help each student succeed to his or her fullest potential and I will do what I can to make sure that happens. Students will be challenged to work on study habits or habits of scholarship skills in the next year. We will focus on geography by continuing to apply the themes used in 6th grade of location, place, movement, human-environment interaction, and region. Students will deepen their understanding of the role of these various themes by examining the many factors that have influenced the modern world and the impact they've had on global interconnectedness. Students will be evaluated based on their individual and group in-class participation, research projects and presentations. It is important that students remain informed citizens. We will meet this expectation by watching or reading world news tailored for the consumption of students.

**Finally**, thank you for choosing to entrust our team with your child's education. We can't wait to get to know them and to watch them grow. Please feel free to be in touch with us as needs arise and we will do the same. It's going to be an exceptional year.

All the Best,

Jared Gallow

Grace Nyanga

Nick Liu

TBD