



Dear Parents,

Welcome to 8th Grade at The Franklin School of Innovation! The eighth grade team would like to introduce ourselves, our classes, and a few expectations we have for our grade-level. We look forward to helping this be your child's best school year yet. In the coming days, we will be sending information on how you can access classroom info and assignments. In the meantime, here are some basics (and a supply list!) to get you started for each of your child's core academic classes:

Fees: There is a one-time expedition fee of **\$25.00/student**. During our Water is Life Expedition there are a total of 9 off campus field trips. These fees help to cover bus transportation as well as equipment that has to be replaced each year.

Each student is expected to pay a **\$10.00/student** science and math lab fee for consumables. We spend a lot of money during the first nine weeks in science doing chemistry. Calculators and pencils are constantly being replaced in math.

These fees can be paid together in one cash payment or check. Checks should be made out to FSI and can go directly to the front office.

English-Language Arts

Welcome to 8th Grade English Language Arts and the start of a brand new school year! In this class we will practice the skills needed to communicate effectively and creatively; this means that each class will be filled with reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing. From independent to large group activities, students will have the opportunity to grow as individuals and team members. Students can expect to read a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts, write for different purposes and audiences, and contribute to a classroom that respects a difference in opinions.

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 8th grade science curriculum focuses 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 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

Welcome to 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.

Required Materials for 2017-2018 --

Crew Supply List:

1 Three-ring binder (3" size)

SS Supply List:

2 string bound composition journals, highlighters, pencils & handheld pencil sharpener, glue stick, scotch tape

Science Supply List:

2 string bound composition journals. 2- black Sharpies, 4 rolls of clear scotch tape, colored pencils and a ruler

Math Supply List:

2 composition books, 4 rolls of clear scotch tape, graph paper, pencils, calculator (8th grade math: TI-30 XIIS recommended; Math 1: TI-83 or TI-84 recommended/ strongly encouraged)

Helpful tip Math 1 graphing calculator: Go to pawn shops around colleges and universities or second hand stores/websites. Students will often sell them once they have completed courses for which the calculators were required.

ELA Supply List:

2 composition books, 1" 3-ring binder, 3-hole punched lined paper for binder, 3 dividers, pens, highlighters

Lit Lab Supply List:

1" 3-ring binder

Music/Songwriting: Ukulele (purchased at any music store for around \$40) and "snark" tuner (under \$20 at any music store)