Dear 9th Grade Families,

Welcome to The Franklin School of Innovation! The ninth grade team would like to briefly introduce ourselves, our classes, and a few expectations we have for our grade level. We look forward to guiding and supporting you all in a very important transition year. When we meet in the Fall we will be sending information on how you can access classroom information and assignments in our individual syllabi. In the meantime, here are some basics (and a supply list!) to get you started for each of your child’s core academic classes:

**General Expectations:** It's high school! Leave your middle school experience but take the lessons you learned from that phase. It's time to start a new journey. With expanded freedoms you'll also be challenged with new responsibilities. Communication is key as you the student will be the bridge between home and school.

**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 studies and trips generally require additional fees, so 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.

**English I with Dr. Hawkins:** Officially, the purpose of English I is to help students navigate the NC State Standards for reading and writing in service of college and career readiness. In practice, I hope that you read a book and love it, that you write something that makes you proud, that you critically interrogate the world around you by asking good questions. Each day, we’ll begin class with independent reading, and we’ll spend the rest of the period working through ELA-related content. As your teacher, my goal is to make sure that every day you have the opportunity to read, write, discuss, and physically move. I am eager to meet you all.

Please note that Honors students have a summer assignment, which can be found at the end of this document.

**Math I / II - Teacher TBD**

Math I is the first course in college preparatory common core math sequence. This course includes topics like linear functions, quadratic functions, exponential functions, systems of linear equations and statistics and probability. Students will use different technological tools to solve and analyze real world
problems. In addition, students will also learn about properties and characteristics of various functions. By the end of this course, students will be able to answer questions like finding slope, writing linear equations, exponential growth/decay and solving quadratic equations. The North Carolina End of Course test for Math 1 will count as 20% of each student's final course grade.

In Math 2, students continue to deepen their study of quadratic expressions, equations, and functions; comparing their characteristics and behavior to those of linear and exponential relationships from Math 1. The concept of quadratics is generalized with the introduction of higher degree polynomials. New methods for solving quadratic and exponential equations are developed. The characteristics of advanced types of functions are investigated (including power, inverse variation, radical, absolute value, piecewise-defined, and simple trigonometric functions). The link between probability and data is explored through conditional probability and counting methods. Students explore more complex geometric situations and deepen their explanations of geometric relationships, moving towards formal mathematical arguments. This course fulfills the North Carolina high school graduation requirement for Math 2.

**Earth & Environmental Science w/ Ms. Bragdon:** Environmental Science will focus on how to analyze and interpret our world through case studies in our environmental systems. Together we will discover the complexities of ecological systems, develop evidence-based perspectives on current environmental issues. We will journey towards these goals by examining environmental topics including:
- The Scientific Method
- Astronomy
- Atmospheric Science
- Climate Science
- Geology & Soil Science
- Ecology

**World History with Mr. Lubos:** World History explores the key events and global historical developments since classical antiquity that have shaped the world we live in today. The scope of World History touches on many aspects of the human experience: economics, science, religion, philosophy, politics & law, military conflict, literature & the arts. The course will build connections between our lives and those of our ancestors around the world. Students will uncover patterns of behavior, identify historical trends and themes, explore historical movements and concepts, and test theories. Students will refine their ability to read for comprehension and critical analysis; summarize, categorize, compare, and evaluate information; write clearly and convincingly; express facts and opinions orally; and use technology appropriately to present information.

**Required Materials / Crew Supply List:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English I</th>
<th>Math I / II</th>
<th>Earth &amp; Environmental Science</th>
<th>World History</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Spiral/Composition book with perforated pages.</td>
<td>1) Composition notebook</td>
<td>❖ Composition journal</td>
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2) Writing implements
3) Free-reading book/library card*
4) Various art supplies needed for projects.

*Students will have access to our classroom library, and we will also be signing up for library cards, though they are welcome to bring a book from home. If your child already has a library card, please try and locate it.

2) Pen or pencils
3) Tape/glue sticks
4) Colored pencils (optional but helpful)

❖ 3-ring binder with at least three dividers (the rest can be used for other classes)
❖ Miscellaneous supplies for organizing and creating (stapler, tape, markers, etc.)

**NOTE:** Because elective classes may possibly teach all high school grades, please obtain a supply list from elective teachers when you meet on the first days of school.

**Summer Assignments**

**Dr. Hawkins - English I Honors:**
We will begin the year with a series of Socratic Seminars rooted in the ideas of power and control. In order to prepare for this assessment, you have three tasks:

1) Read and annotate/take notes over one of the following: *Brave New World, Never Let Me Go, Handmaid’s Tale.*
2) Listen to and take notes over Radiolab’s *Unfit*
3) Find and annotate or take notes over a nonfiction article/podcast/documentary of your choice that revolves around the ideas of power and control.

**Mr. Lubos - World History:**

Get organized. It’s my #1 tip for this class and a general tip for navigating all aspects of life!

Think of these as strong suggestions as you practice what it means to be organized:

❖ Physically - Set up a workspace in your house where you will regularly do your schoolwork. Arrange office supplies and materials where they are accessible and easy to find. Clean your room once in a while and offer to organize a room at your house. Do this occasionally until it becomes a habit without your parent/guardian asking you to do so. The classroom is similar.
❖ Mentally - Take inventory of the things you enjoy doing, your strengths and weaknesses, and short-term and long-term goals. Remind yourself what motivates you and what is still
challenging that you want to someday overcome. This will translate to a lot of the mental work we do in class.

❖ Socially - Think about your circle of family and friends. How did you meet your friends? How often do you interact with them? How do you keep up with communication with your family? What ways do you strengthen your bonds with each? What ways do you resolve conflicts? You’ll be collaborating a lot with peers you know and peers you don’t know well (yet).