



Dear 9th Grade Students & Families,

Welcome to The Franklin School of Innovation! The 9th 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 and possible elective classes:

**General Expectations:** It's high school! Leave your middle school experience behind but take the lessons you learned from that phase in starting a new journey. With expanded freedoms you'll also be challenged with new responsibilities. Communication is key as students will become the bridge between home and school. Organization of materials, both physical and digital, are also going to be more important as you practice being more independent. This first year of high school is setting you up for the rest of your high school career.

Canvas will be our primary source for nearly all course assignments and resources. It will be strongly advised for parents/guardians to sign up through the Canvas parent smartphone app to guide their child in tracking due dates and grades. Students will also be encouraged to download a student smartphone app (and we'll teach you all how!)

Crew is unique to our school as it serves as a student's "homebase" - this is a course and concept where you grow with your crewmates and assigned Crew Leader participating (and even planning) activities, discussions, and experiences throughout the year.

**General 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.

Please note that the 9th grade has our traditional "Crew Adventure week" that will be an overnight trip. We also have a learning expedition later in the year that will involve students going on multiple field trips! More details will be shared as these traditions & their dates get closer.

## ~COURSEWORK~

**English I with Mr. Nick Reller:** This foundational high school course provides a survey of World Literature. Students will develop a greater understanding of various literary styles and genres, with a focus on reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language. Honors work will consist of an increased level of complex assignments, projects, analysis, and writing. Honors students will also be expected to read two additional books outside of class in addition to the novels all students read.

**Math I with Mr. Chris Kollack:** 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.

**Math II with Mr. Jeff Readman:** 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 with Mrs. Jessica 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. Jerry 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.

As one of your 9th grade teachers, we'll spend time learning and practicing effective note-taking strategies, proper researching and citing of sources, and participation in class discussions on global issues and local topics. I will prepare you for high school and beyond!

**~ REQUIRED MATERIALS & SUPPLY LIST ~**

English I	Math I / II	Earth & Environmental Science	World History
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ 3 ring binder</li> <li>❖ Loose Leaf Paper</li> <li>❖ Pink, Yellow and Orange Highlighter</li> </ul>	<p><b>Math 2 Supply List: A composition notebook (either with graph paper or lined), pencils, and a graphing calculator (TI-83 or TI-84 recommended). A helpful tip for finding an affordable graphing calculator is to go to pawn shops or second hand stores/websites. Students will often sell them once they have completed courses for which the calculators were required.</b></p> <p><b>NOTE: Notebook should be used only for Math II.</b></p> <p><b>NOTE: Materials on this list do not need to be new, just in good working shape. Feel free to reuse</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Composition notebook</li> <li>❖ Pen or pencils</li> <li>❖ Tape/glue sticks (optional but helpful)</li> <li>❖ Colored pencils (optional but helpful)</li> <li>❖ Highlighters (optional but helpful)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Composition journal</b> (for note-taking and studying)</li> <li>❖ <b>3-ring binder with at least three dividers</b> (and can be used to house other classes)</li> <li>❖ <b>Miscellaneous supplies</b> (highlighters, colored pencils, glue sticks, etc.)</li> </ul>

**NOTE: Because elective classes may possibly teach all high school grades, supply lists may differ. You'll meet your teachers during the first few days to gather the specific materials you need for your classes.**

**Other Crew Leaders:** In addition to your core teachers who also are Crew leaders, three other FSI staff members serve as our 9th grade Crew leaders. We'll introduce them below, along with what they do at the school:

- **Molly Wagner:** Ms. Wagner is the 9th grade EC Specialist, which means she helps students that need a bit more support in and out of the classroom. You will see Ms. Wagner supporting in your core classes, in her classroom with students, or in paperwork land! She is someone to support you emotionally and academically through the year.
- **Hanna Walden:** Senora Walden teaches Spanish. She hopes her students come away with a well rounded grasp of grammar and sentence structure as well as appreciation for other cultures and heritages.
- **Jessica "JP" Potter-Bowers:** JP is the High School Behavior Specialist, meaning she

helps students when something about school is hard. JP is someone to ask for when you're feeling out of control or overwhelmed, or just need someone to talk to. In addition to running a 9th grade crew, she also teaches Adventure Ed, an elective that focuses on exploration and survival skills and meets outdoors most days.

### **~ SUMMER PREPARATIONS & ASSIGNMENTS ~**

#### **Mr. Lubos - World History:**

Get organized and stay organized. It's my #1 tip for this course and a general tip for navigating all aspects of life.

Think of these as strong suggestions as you practice organization::

- ❖ 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). With everyone coming from different backgrounds, we'll create our own unique community within the classroom.