



Fall 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to 9th Grade at The Franklin School of Innovation! As we enter into our fourth year as a high school, we are excited that you and your family decided to take this journey with us. It takes courage to begin any new endeavor and this one is no exception. You and your student are entering a place that is growing, expanding, changing, and always learning. At the same time, your student is transitioning out of middle school and into high school, which leads to greater responsibility, culturally and academically, and a sharper focus on what is to come. We feel confident that, when we reflect and grow together, exceptional things will come of the class of 2021! The ninth grade team wanted to introduce ourselves, our classes, and a few expectations we have for our grade-level.

***From students***, we expect a willingness to **engage deeply daily**, to take risks academically, and to push as leadership and collaborators. We expect students to **interact respectfully** with their environment, teachers, and peers, and we expect students to **operate with kindness** towards themselves and others. We expect students to cultivate an **academic curiosity** that will keep their eyes open to new possibilities and also strengthens the skills that have gained as middle schoolers. Finally, we expect students to **reflect upon their progress** throughout the year, recognizing that we can learn so much from the process in addition to the products we create.

***From our parents and families***, we ask for **support and trust**. As students transition out of middle school and into high school, we will scaffold students into becoming more independent and responsible learners. We expect there will be times when students are challenged with tasks, especially in the beginning of the year, and we ask that you support your student in **taking ownership of their learning**. This means asking students about their work, and asking what they can do with the support of their teachers and peers to growth with each opportunity, rather than fixing issues that arise for them. We also ask that you **feel comfortable** stepping in when you need more support or information for or about your student. We want you to **see us as a team** in helping your student become an educated, responsible, and empathetic young adult.

***From your teachers***, you can expect us to work as **coaches in each of our subject areas**. You can expect us to **care deeply** about your student's progress as a learner and as a person throughout the course of the year. You can expect us to **design culturally responsive**

**curriculum** that engages and supports your student, and you can expect us to adjust that curriculum according to your student's needs throughout the course of the year. We will **push your students**, and we will **set and hold boundaries** for your students. Our goal is communicate this progress with you along the way, and you can expect for us to be **prompt and thoughtful** in our responses to any of your concerns or questions.

We are a team that loves collaboration and innovation, and we believe we are poised for the best 9th grade year yet in FSI history. Thank you for sharing your students with us as we continue on the journey of defining ourselves as a school. 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 to get you started for each of your child's core academic classes:

### **World History with Mr. Lubos**

World History will challenge you to learn to analyze and interpret historical facts and evidence to better understand major developments in history. This course will require you and your classmates to make connections across time periods and geographical regions. It will be taught similar to a Humanities class – i.e. focusing on the stories of people and places across time and how human beings have interacted and continue to interact with each other. It takes from other disciplines such as the arts, literature, geography, philosophy, and the like. Delving into history involves investigating the past – learning the facts (key figures, groups of people, the sequencing of events) and analyzing them. You will, in time (get it?), use your knowledge and skills to prepare you to navigate the world today.

### **Math with Mr. Byan**

Welcome to High School! Integrated Math I is a course created by combining the traditional Algebra I and Fundamental Geometry courses. This course is designed to help students model real life situations using algebraic equations and functions. Math I places special emphasis on solving linear equations and functions. The number system, algebraic equations, fundamental geometry, statistics and probability are some of the main topics that will be covered in this course. We will use technology on a regular basis to enhance and help students with various analysis and calculations. I will use multiple formative assessments throughout the course to ensure students' understanding and mastery of contents and standards. Math I is a fundamental course that students will use throughout their high school career and beyond.

### **Science with Mr. Chris**

Welcome aboard! Earth and Environmental Science dives deeply into the science of our environment and our relationships to that environment. We will explore many topics including: scientific thinking, astronomy, meteorology, climatology, hydrology, soil science, and ecology. Expect to engage in challenging problem-solving inside and outside of the classroom. In addition to examining new scientific content, this course is designed to push students to discover our environmental world through the lense of a scientist by asking hard questions, forming opinions based on scientific evidence, conducting fieldwork, and investigating the big environmental issues of our time.

### **English I with Mr. Fowler**

Welcome to 9th Grade! The transition from middle school to high school is an exciting time, and all of the 9th grade teachers look forward to helping to make that change as easy as possible. As you transition from one part of your educational career to another, we will also study stories of change, of struggle, and of choices. Throughout the course of the year we will study novels like *The Alchemist* and plays like *Romeo and Juliet*. We will also focus heavily on original thought by utilizing Socratic Seminars, Debates, and constructed responses. Additionally, we will look at how authors and speakers use rhetoric to manipulate and move us, and we will work to apply those skills to our writings and speeches as well. More than anything, English will be a space where you can find your voice, find what you believe, and to find why you believe what you believe. I look forward to the beginning of this new journey with you all!

**Finally**, thank you for choosing to entrust our team with your student'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 best,

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