

# THE FRANKLIN SCHOOL OF INNOVATION

An EL Education School

## From the Director



2018-2019 FSI Staff - looking forward to welcoming you!

## Welcome to the 2018-2019 School Year!

Last week, one of our founding faculty members shared a facebook memory - a photo of our full staff from our first year. As I looked back on the photo our founding Crew, I was reminded of how we've grown, and where we are in our journey as a school and community. We've doubled in size, and our community now includes many staff, students, and families from our first year, as well as community members who have joined us all along the way. While I'm glad that we've overcome some of the original challenges of starting a school, there was something about that first year that brought us together, with shared vision and purpose. Our goal as we grow is to keep that shared vision, while always making room for new ideas. Whether you are new to Franklin or returning, I hope you feel welcomed and valued! I invite you to be Crew with us, finding a way to take an active role as we continue to build the school we all envisioned.

This year, much of our focus will be on the physical building of the school. Yet from the start, we've known that what really matters is the community and culture of Franklin. While we literally build our school, we will keep our focus on building the school culture that supports all staff and students to achieve more than they think is possible - a culture where all members feel visible and valuable.

Our families play a vital role in helping us build this culture. We know that we won't be successful unless we work in partnership! This

## Important Dates

**Thursday, Aug 23**

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

**Thurs, Aug 23, 4 - 6:30 pm**

Athletics Meeting Drop-In, in PE building

**Wed, Aug 29 - Full Day**

3:15/3:30 Release

**Monday, Sept 3: Labor Day**

**NO SCHOOL**

**Thursday, Sept 6, 5:30 - 7 pm**

MS Back to School Night

**Friday, Sept 7, 9:00 am**

Groundbreaking Ceremony!

**Tues, Sept 11, 6:00 pm**

Board of Directors Meeting

**Thursday, Sept 13, 5:30 - 7 pm**

HS Back to School Night & College Planning for Seniors, 6 - 7 pm

**Friday, Sept 14 - NO SCHOOL**

Teacher PD Day

**Wed, Sept 19 - Full Day**

3:15/3:30 Release

**Tues, Oct 9, 6 pm**

Board of Directors meeting

**Tues, Oct 9 - Fri, Oct 12:**

9th Grade Adventure Treks

month's newsletter contains lots of nuts and bolts about the start of the school year. Please take time to review our Student/Family Handbook, with particular attention to our expectations for how students behave and treat one another. In today's hyper-connected world, our children are exposed to so much divisiveness, hate, and unkindness. We must all become more diligent and committed to modeling empathy, respect, and the desire to find what we have in common, rather than the differences that hold us apart.

I look forward to this year of building and growth, and to being "Crew" with you.

Warmly,

Michelle Vruwink, Executive Director

## Becoming Ethical People

In our mission statement, we emphasize the importance of helping students become ethical citizens who recognize the value of others. On a day-to-day basis, this is defined and communicated through our Code of Conduct, our Habits of Scholarship, and our schoolwide norms for students. Over the first few weeks of school, and throughout the school year, students will spend time unpacking and reflecting on these in Crew and in their academic classes.

We appreciate your help in reviewing a few essential behavior expectations as we start the school year! For more information, please refer to our [Student/Family Handbook](#).

**Respect for one another:** All members of our community deserve an environment free from bullying or harassment. Note that sexual harassment and racial or hate crime harassment are among a limited set of behaviors that will result in automatic suspension from school. If you witness, experience, or suspect bullying or harassment of any nature, please report the incident to a trusted adult at school - teacher, counselor, principal, or school director.

**Dress Code:** Students should select clothing that is suitable for the activities of learning. Franklin emphasizes a project-based learning model, which often engages students in field work on or off our campus. Students must wear clothing that covers buttocks, torso, and chests. The most frequent dress code violations are shirts that expose the torso (stomach and/or sides) and pants that "sag" to expose buttocks. For more guidance, refer to our Student/Family Handbook section on dress code. The dress code will be enforced starting the first day of school.

**Cell Phones:** Cell phones should not be seen or heard during the school day. High school students are allowed to use their cell phones during lunch. Parents, please help us by not texting or calling your students' cell phones during the school day. If you need to communicate with your student, please call the office, and we will have your student come to the office to call you back.

**Campus Leave:** Once students arrive on campus, they are expected to remain on campus. This includes students who drive. Juniors and seniors who are enrolled in courses at AB Tech are permitted to leave campus to attend scheduled classes.

**Student Drivers:** Students who wish to drive and park at school must register and receive a student parking pass. The parking pass must be displayed where it can be easily seen. We will allow students to park without a pass the first two days of school. After that point, passes will be required.

## Drop off & Pick Up

- School starts at 8:15 for middle school and 8:25 for high school (high school - this is 5 minutes earlier!)
- Dismissal is 3:15 for middle school and 3:30 for high school.
- **Early release dismissal is 1:00 for middle school and 12:50 for high school (this is new!) Note that high school is released BEFORE middle school on early release Wednesdays**
- Regular drop off begins at 7:45; early drop off is available starting at 7 am

If you are a returning family, our drop off and pick up procedures will be familiar. We are starting the year with the same traffic patterns as last year. Our traffic pattern will change once construction is underway, and we will keep you informed!

If you are new to Franklin, please feel free to come by and drive your pick up route! We will be out in force to help on these first days of school! It always takes a few days for everyone to get the hang of our pick up process.

All traffic is one way, with the entrance at the west side of campus (the paved portion of our road). All traffic **URNS RIGHT** at the exit. If you need to go east on Sardis Road, turn right and proceed to the corner. You can make a turn at the gas station. Please do not use the day care center's drive as a turn-around. They have families and small children using their driveway, and cannot accommodate our traffic.

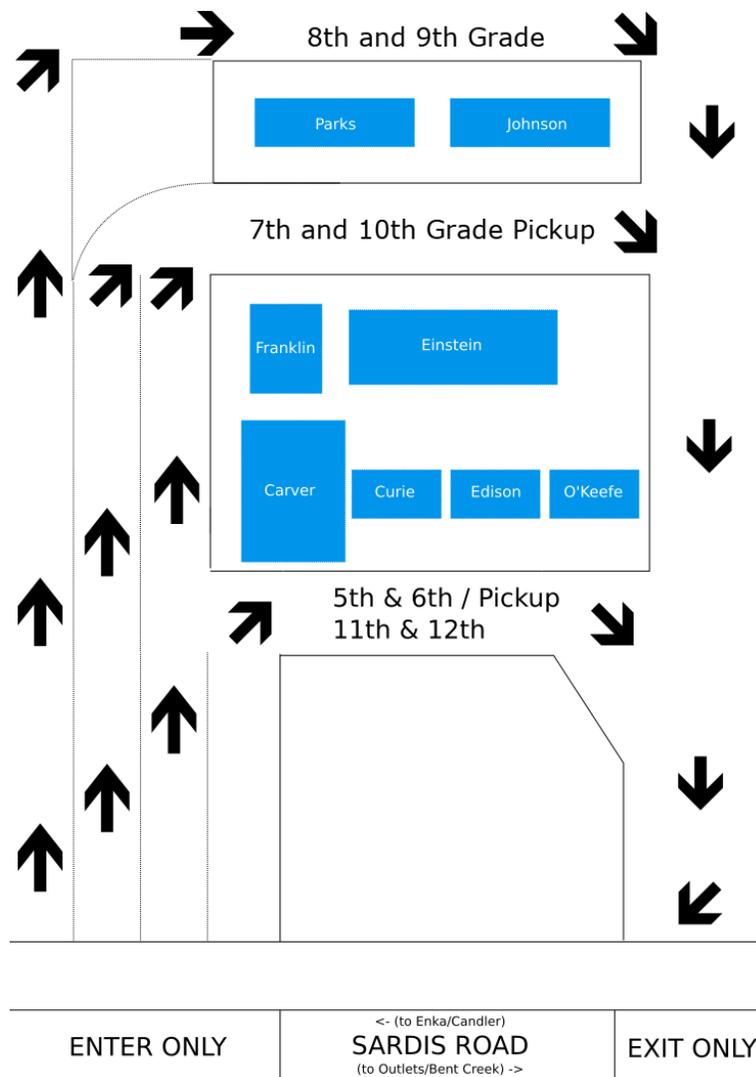
### Drop Off

- Drop off begins at 7:45. Early drop off is available through our Beyond the Bell program, starting at 7 am. There is a small fee for early drop off. All students on campus before 7:45 am or after 3:40 pm (or when pick up traffic is generally complete) are part of our Beyond the Bell program and are subject to applicable fees.
- All drop off is in front of the Einstein building. Please pull as far forward as possible before stopping.
- For safety purposes, students should always exit and enter cars from the right side.

### Pick Up

- All traffic is one-way. Form 3 lanes when you enter (see graph below)
- Grades 5, 6, 11 & 12 will use the far right lane and will pick up from the 1st drive
- Grades 7 & 10 will use the middle lane, and will merge at the middle drive to pick up in front of the Einstein building
- Grades 8 & 9 will use the far left or middle lanes. They will proceed to the last drive and pick up behind the Parks & Johnson buildings
- Please arrive at 3:00 or after for middle school, and at 3:30 for high school. Parents arriving earlier than the specified times may be asked to move to the side of the road or to go back onto Sardis road. This helps keep traffic moving. Note that prior to pick up, our driveway is often used for PE activities.

- Carpools
  - If your carpool includes 5th & 6th grade students - always use the 1st drive
  - If your carpool includes ONLY 8th & 9th students - use the 3rd drive
  - All others carpools- use the middle lane
  - If your carpool includes high school students - please arrive at 3:30 (not earlier)



## Medications Reminder!

If your student will take any type of medication at school (prescription or over-the-counter), you must have a physician complete the medication form and bring it to school, along with the medication. Medication forms are available on our school website, and have been sent in prior emails. According to North Carolina State regulations, if we do not have a form on file, students may not take any form of medication at school.

If your student has a medical condition, such as diabetes, asthma, or a serious allergy, we must have a medical management plan from your physician. Please be sure to alert us to any conditions, and provide appropriate medications, so that we can work with you to keep your student safe and healthy.

Finally, please be sure you have turned in the Emergency Medical Authorization (EMA) form. Earlier this month, you should have received an email from Erinn Otten with information on this form. This form is so important - if your child is ever in need of medical treatment at school, we cannot provide or authorize treatment without this form. All forms can be turned in to the school office, located in the Franklin building (the smaller white building with the colorful mural).

## Beyond the Bell

Beyond the Bell is our before and after school program. All students who arrive to campus before 7:45 am, or remain on campus after 3:40 (approximately) are automatically part of our Beyond the Bell program. For safety purposes, students cannot be on campus without appropriate supervision. This is a fee-based program; sliding scale fees are available based on family income and need.

The program is located in the Einstein building. In the morning, students report directly to Einstein and sign in. After school students will be directed to Einstein around 3:40 (we will have a space for middle school students to wait between 3:15 and 3:40).

Beyond the Bell offers a wide range of clubs and activities, as well as tutoring and time for homework. Watch for emails from Sheri Cross, our Beyond the Bell Coordinator, for all the latest clubs and program updates!

You can contact Sheri at [scross@thefsi.us](mailto:scross@thefsi.us).

## Band Program

We are excited for the 2nd year of our band program, under the competent direction of band director Chris Wilson ([cwilson@thefsi.us](mailto:cwilson@thefsi.us)). Band is an afterschool program this year, with a one-time fee of \$40. Band will begin August 27 for Beginning Band, and August 30 for Intermediate Band. Below is the updated schedule; band meets in the O'Keefe building (music room):

- Beginning band will meet Monday and Tuesday from 3:30-5:30 pm
- Intermediate band will meet on Thursday and Friday from 3:30-5:30 pm
- Private lessons are available on Wednesday's; contact Chris for more information

## ThunderBolts! Fall Athletics Thursday, Aug 23, 4 - 6:30 pm

Athletic Director Kim Burke will be available after school on Thursday, August 23, to answer your questions about our fall athletics program! This is a drop-in meeting, located in the Naismith (PE) building. She will have all required forms, practice schedules, and everything you need to know about our athletic program. Fall sports include girls & boys MS & HS Cross Country, boys MS and HS soccer, and Flag Football (MS only). We look forward to a great fall season!

## Bus Service & Carpooling

If you would like to use our bus service, you must complete the following form. At this point, our bus is full or nearly full; everyone who has signed up already does have a spot on the bus. We will be driving the bus route this week to get a better idea of the times for each of the bus stops - watch for an email from Director of Operations Deeanna Bennett with more information.

## **[Bus Service Request Form](#)**

We also strongly recommend carpooling! Please check out our [Carpool Facebook Group](#).

### **Campus Visitors**

We welcome visitors to our campus! We want to be sure that visitors have a good experience, and that we know who is on campus at all times. If you are coming to campus for any reason during the day, please stop in the office to sign in.

### **Schedules & Schedule Change Requests**

Middle School schedules were emailed on Friday, August 17, High school schedules will be emailed Monday, August 20. Once you receive your schedule, please review for any errors. Students with schedule errors or missing classes may submit schedule change requests during the following times (we will not accept optional schedule change requests at these times):

Tuesday, August 21: 3 - 5 pm

Wednesday, August 22: 3 - 5 pm

Schedule change requests will also be accepted during the first 10 days of the school year. Students may submit both schedule error changes and optional schedule change requests during the first 10 days of school. However, students should understand that we may not be able to accommodate optional change requests.

Please note that schedule change requests will be prioritized as follows:

- Schedule errors such as: enrolled in a class for which you have already earned credit: scheduled in a class without pre-requisite (e.g. Math 2 but have not completed Math 1), and missing classes/incomplete schedules
- Teacher recommendation for different level (honors or standard)
- Student preference/optional change requests will receive lowest priority

### **It's Not Too Late! School Supply Lists**

Be sure to check our website for [summer reading, required summer assignments, and supply lists](#). All students are strongly encouraged to choose books and keep reading this summer. Note that some high school courses - especially AP courses - have mandatory summer assignments. Check your grade level list so you can get off to a great start.

### **Volunteer Corner**

Parent and community involvement is essential to the ongoing success of any school community. At Franklin, we know that without the support of our families, we cannot be the school we want to be! We ask our families to share their time and talents, with each family contributing four hours (two hour for one-parent households) of volunteer support per month.

Our hope is that you will find volunteering to be rewarding! Getting involved is a great way to meet other members of our school community, and to see first hand what is happening at Franklin. We have many levels of volunteering, from helping plant or weed gardens, to serving on the Board of Directors.

We have many ways for you to volunteer as we get ready for school! If you have an hour or two, and would like to help us get campus ready for students - please stop by the office or contact Andi Morrell ([amorrell@thefsi.us](mailto:amorrell@thefsi.us)) to see how you can help.

On a longer-term basis - we are looking for someone who would like to **help us start a Debate Club!** No experience is required. We will put you in touch with the local debate organization, and they will provide mentoring and support. We are happy to start very small, and build the program. For more information, contact JaneAnn Tager ([jtager@thefsi.us](mailto:jtager@thefsi.us)) or Michelle Vruwink ([mvruwink@thefsi.us](mailto:mvruwink@thefsi.us)).

Our [Volunteer Crews](#), serve as a way to organize and support our parent volunteers. The following Crews are in formation:

- Gardening & Grounds Crew
- Marketing & Outreach Crew
- Fundraising/Events Crew
- Teacher Support Crew

We are seeking brave Crew Captains, and plenty of Crew members! **Please complete [this survey](#) to let us know how you would like to get involved. Thank you!**

## Reminders - Check here for any info you may have missed!

### School Schedule - Revised Wednesday Early Release

Wednesdays will remain our Early Release day, but the release time has changed from prior years. **High school will release at 12:50 pm and Middle School will release at 1:00 pm.** This change will create more productive time for teacher learning and collaborative planning. Throughout the school year, there are 7 REGULAR release Wednesdays. School will dismiss at 3:15/3:30 on these Wednesdays. These Wednesday are: **August 29, September 19, November 14, January 30, February 13, April 3, and June 5.** Please mark these Wednesdays on your calendar!

The **daily schedule for grades 5 - 8 is 8:15 am - 3:15 pm;** 8:15 - 1:00 pm on Wednesday.

The **daily schedule for grades 9 - 12 is 8:25 am - 3:30 pm;** 8:25 - 12:50 on Wednesday.

### **Before & After School (BTB)**

Before School: 7:00 am-7:45 am: Mon-Fri

After School: 3:15 pm-6:00 pm: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, and 1:00-6:00 pm Wednesdays

## Who do I go to when....

Whether you are new or returning to Franklin, we know you will have questions, and we want to help you find the best person to answer them, quickly and efficiently. We hope this little guide will help you navigate!

***I have a question about my child's grade, an assignment, or something specific to one class:***

Start with your child - what do they know? Then, the classroom teacher

***I'm worried about my child's overall progress, or progress in multiple classes:*** Your child's Crew advisor can help coordinate a team response or meeting

***My child seems anxious, sad, or unhappy:*** [Lindsey Foster](#) is our middle school counselor, and [Katherine Becker](#) is our high school counselor

***I think my child is being bullied, or other behavior/discipline concerns:*** [Walter Plotkin](#), Middle School Principal or [Sarah Jean Smith](#), High School Principal

***My child will miss school:*** For short-term absences (illness, doctor's appointments, etc), send an email to [attendance@thefsi.us](mailto:attendance@thefsi.us), or bring a written note to the front office. Educational leave requests require prior approval from the Executive Director, [Michelle Vruwink](#).

***I've contacted a teacher, but the problem isn't resolved:*** Your child's Principal

***I think my child may need special education services or accommodations:*** [Donnie Stahlke](#), Director of Special Services

***My child has an IEP, and I have questions about the services provided:*** Your child's Exceptional Children teacher is your first contact:

- Grades 5 - 6: [Tammy Leahy](#)
- Grades 7 - 8: [Meagan Barnhard](#)
- Grade 9: [Lindsay Furst](#)
- Grade 10: [Jennifer Nathanson](#)
- Grades 11 -12: [Serena Campbell](#)

***I have questions about sports:*** [Kim Burke](#), Athletic Director

***I want to know more about after or before-school services:*** [Sheri Cross](#), Beyond the Bell Coordinator

***I want to know more about your band program:*** [Chris Wilson](#), Band Director

***I have questions about your school bus:*** [Deeana Bennett](#), Director of Operations

***I am interested in carpooling/ride-sharing:*** Check out our carpool facebook group (you need to request to join):

***I want to know more about college planning, including advanced courses like AP and Dual Enrollment, financial aid, or the college application process:*** [JaneAnne Tager](#), College & Career Counselor

***I have high level concerns or questions about the school, such as a problem that hasn't been resolved through my principal, an immediate school safety concern, or more general questions about the school's philosophy, approach, or plans for the future:*** [Michelle Vruwink](#), Executive Director

## **Our Teaching Teams for 2018-2019!**

We are excited to have many returning teachers, as well as some new faces for the coming school year! While we are sharing contact information now, please understand that teachers are enjoying their summers, and will not be responding to emails until the school year begins. You will have the opportunity to meet teachers at our Back to School Nights in early September! Please see information above for the Exceptional Children teachers on each grade level team.

### 5th Grade

Katie Lapinski, ELA & Social Studies: [klapinski@thefsi.us](mailto:klapinski@thefsi.us)

Peggy McKay, Science & Math: [pmckay@thefsi.us](mailto:pmckay@thefsi.us)

### 6th Grade

Tony Freeman, ELA & Social Studies: [tfreeman@thefsi.us](mailto:tfreeman@thefsi.us)

Charlie Keller, Math & Social Studies: [ckeller@thefsi.us](mailto:ckeller@thefsi.us)

Samuel "Latt" Berry Foster, Science & Social Studies: [sfoster@thefsi.us](mailto:sfoster@thefsi.us)

### 7th Grade

Ethan Burns, ELA: [eburns@thefsi.us](mailto:eburns@thefsi.us)

Bryan Clendenin, Social Studies: [bclendenin@thefsi.us](mailto:bclendenin@thefsi.us)

Judy Carhart, Math: [jcarhart@thefsi.us](mailto:jcarhart@thefsi.us)

Nick Liu, Science: [nliu@thefsi.us](mailto:nliu@thefsi.us)

### 8th Grade

Dan Torrington, ELA: & Social Studies: [dtorrington@thefsi.us](mailto:dtorrington@thefsi.us)

Lucas Myers, Math: [lmyers@thefsi.us](mailto:lmyers@thefsi.us)

Elizabeth Post, Science & Social Studies: [epost@thefsi.us](mailto:epost@thefsi.us)

## 9th Grade

Drew Fowler, ELA: [dfowler@thefsi.us](mailto:dfowler@thefsi.us)  
Jerry Lubos, World History: [jlubos@thefsi.us](mailto:jlubos@thefsi.us)  
Austin Proctor, Math 1: [aproctor@thefsi.us](mailto:aproctor@thefsi.us)  
Taylor Jenkins, Math 1: [tjenkins@thefsi.us](mailto:tjenkins@thefsi.us)  
Jill Padfield, Math 2: [jpadfield@thefsi.us](mailto:jpadfield@thefsi.us)  
Chris DeFiore, Earth Science: [cdefiore@thefsi.us](mailto:cdefiore@thefsi.us)

## 10th Grade

Carly Connor, ELA: [cconnor@thefsi.us](mailto:cconnor@thefsi.us)  
Matt Reynolds, Civics & Economics: [mreynolds@thefsi.us](mailto:mreynolds@thefsi.us)  
Jill Padfield, Math 2: [jpadfield@thefsi.us](mailto:jpadfield@thefsi.us)  
Teshale Byan, Math 3 & Calculus: [tbyan@thefsi.us](mailto:tbyan@thefsi.us)  
Jessica Bragdon, Biology: [jbragdon@thefsi.us](mailto:jbragdon@thefsi.us)

## 11th Grade

Katie Washburn, English III & AP Lang: [kwashburn@thefsi.us](mailto:kwashburn@thefsi.us)  
Meghan Moore-Hubbard, American History I: [mmoorehubbard@thefsi.us](mailto:mmoorehubbard@thefsi.us)  
Teshale Byan, Math 3 & Calculus: [tbyan@thefsi.us](mailto:tbyan@thefsi.us)  
Taylor Jenkins, PreCalc: [tjenkins@thefsi.us](mailto:tjenkins@thefsi.us)  
Melissa Kee (formerly Parton), Chemistry & Conceptual Physics: [mparton@thefsi.us](mailto:mparton@thefsi.us)

## 12th Grade

Laura Walton (formerly Bubacz,) English IV & AP Lit: [lwalton@thefsi.us](mailto:lwalton@thefsi.us)  
Tess Barnes Dunn, American History II: [tbarnesdunn@thefsi.us](mailto:tbarnesdunn@thefsi.us)  
Teshale Byan, Calculus: [tbyan@thefsi.us](mailto:tbyan@thefsi.us)  
Taylor Jenkins, PreCalc & Discrete Math: [tjenkins@thefsi.us](mailto:tjenkins@thefsi.us)  
Melissa Kee (formerly Parton), Conceptual Physics: [mparton@thefsi.us](mailto:mparton@thefsi.us)  
Austin Proctor, Physics: [aproctor@thefsi.us](mailto:aproctor@thefsi.us)

## Elective Teachers:

MS PE: Kendra Parks (formerly Orians), [korians@thefsi.us](mailto:korians@thefsi.us)  
HS PE & Athletic Director: Kimberly Burke, [kburke@thefsi.us](mailto:kburke@thefsi.us)  
MS Art: Diane Strazzer, [dstrazzer@thefsi.us](mailto:dstrazzer@thefsi.us)  
HS Art: Kati Robbins, [krobbins@thefsi.us](mailto:krobbins@thefsi.us)  
MS Lit Lab: Hannah Allen, [hallen@thefsi.us](mailto:hallen@thefsi.us)  
MS Tech: Matt Mikulski, [mmikulski@thefsi.us](mailto:mmikulski@thefsi.us)  
MS Guidance (and counselor): Lindsey Foster, [lfoster@thefsi.us](mailto:lfoster@thefsi.us)  
Music: Cary Cooper, [ccooper@thefsi.us](mailto:ccooper@thefsi.us)  
Theatre: Nicole Phifer-Huett, [nphiferhuett@thefsi.us](mailto:nphiferhuett@thefsi.us)  
French: Stephanie Hellert, [shellert@thefsi.us](mailto:shellert@thefsi.us)  
Spanish: Heather Kabat, [hkabat@thefsi.us](mailto:hkabat@thefsi.us)  
Spanish: Alfredo Herrero Debon, [aherrerodebon@thefsi.us](mailto:aherrerodebon@thefsi.us)  
ASL: Desiree Delbert, [ddelbert@thefsi.us](mailto:ddelbert@thefsi.us)

## Back to School Nights

We will host Back to School nights for both middle and high school. This will be an opportunity to meet your student's teachers, Crew leaders, and other school faculty, and to visit classrooms. We encourage all parents & guardians to join us!

**Thursday, Sept 6, 5:30 - 7:00 pm: Middle School Back to School Night**

**Thursday, Sept 13, 5:30 - 7:00 pm: High School Back to School Night**

JaneAnne Tager, our College Counselor, will host a special College Planning Session for high seniors and their parents/guardians from 6 - 7 pm