



Summer 2020

Dear Rising 8th Grade Families,

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 \$35.00 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 trips generally require additional fees, but with the uncertainty of this year, we will provide specific information on those opportunities when/if 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.

Every student is expected to come to school prepared with pencils and paper EVERY DAY.

**English-Language Arts** Welcome to 8<sup>th</sup> 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  
2020-2021 -- Crew Supply List:**

1 Three-ring binder (3" size)  
(Students new to FSI, only)

**Social Studies Supply List:** 2 string bound composition journals, 1 binder (2") 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, 2 glue sticks, pencils and a ruler

**Math Supply List:** 2 composition books (only one is needed on the first day of school), 2 rolls of scotch tape, personal pencils, and calculator (8th grade math: TI-30 XIIS recommended but not required; Math 1: TI-83 or TI-84 recommended and strongly encouraged)

Helpful tip for 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:** Each student will need 1 composition notebook, a package of small post-it notes (1.5" x 2" - any light color is fine), a package of colored pencils, 1 highlighter, 1 two-pocket folder with 3 prongs, and a small package of pencils.

Optional additional supplies for class use: package of loose-leaf, college-ruled paper, dry erase markers, index cards, glue sticks, Sharpies.

### **Summer Reading:**

Hello rising 8th grade families! There are no reading assignments this summer, but incoming 8th graders are strongly encouraged to read over their break. I'm including a list of suggestions below, but the most important thing is that you're reading something at your current level that you find interesting, whether it's a physical book, audiobook, fiction, nonfiction, a graphic novel, or anything else! If you want any other suggestions, or want to talk about a book you're reading, feel free to contact me anytime: [LWehrli@thefsi.us](mailto:LWehrli@thefsi.us).

Here are some interesting and thought-provoking novel suggestions:

- One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia
- Lily and Duncan by Donna Gephart
- Tangerine by Edward Bloor
- Echo by Pam Munoz-Ryan
- All the Bright Places by Jennifer Niven