

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 11th Grade at the Franklin School of Innovation! This year will surely be an exciting one. With our second graduating class and a fully grown-out high school, we are all learning and defining what it means to be a Franklin student in upper high school. We are so excited that you have chosen to take this journey with us. 11th Grade is a year full of unique opportunities and challenges, and as your student is becoming more independent and self-aware, we will spend time reflecting together on how to translate their high school experiences into plans for the future. We also are confident that the academic rigor and support afforded in the 11th grade will prepare your student for whatever path they choose after high school, and we are eager to embark on our plans of deep critical thinking, community service, and leadership development together. The 11th grade team wanted to introduce ourselves, our classes, and a few expectations 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 11th grade year yet in FSI history to provide each student with a unique learning experience. 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:

American History with Moore-Hubbard

Hello historians! Welcome to American History I. This year students will learn about the beginning of the United States from the Native American cultures who were here prior to European arrival until era of the Civil War and Reconstruction. We will focus on geography and how it affects our culture and economy in different parts of the country. Most of our text will consist of primary documents from the era we are studying with some secondary chapters as anchor texts as well. Students will read and annotate primary and secondary sources as well as engage in class discussions about our text.

They will also be answering document based questions (DBQs) in essay format. I can't wait to share my love of history with you and hopefully we will learn some new things together this year!

English III or AP English Language & Composition with Washburn

Welcome to 11th Grade English! Both English III and AP Lang are courses that focus on developing your student as a reader, writer, thinker, and discussor. You should expect your student to be reading critical texts weekly, engaging in written work and deep revisions every quarter, and discussing perspectives on our topics every day in class. In each course, our units are organized around topics and essential questions in which we will read and analyze mentor texts, practice writing for a particular purpose, and ultimately produce a high-quality piece of work for that unit. My intention in both classes is that students end the year ready to tackle any text, writing, or discussion in a college-ready classroom. I am so excited to embark on this journey with them!

Math with Jenkins

Physical Science and Chemistry with Parton

Hello Future Scientist, Engineers, and Wonders! Students will complete many labs throughout the year. Similar to professional scientists, labs will require students to complete research, collect data through a methodical process, and communicate findings. Beyond scientific content, this class will push students to examine the world through the lense of a scientist by asking questions, developing their own opinions based upon scientific evidence, and practice varying problem-solving strategies.

Physical Science gives an introduction to Chemistry and Physics explaining the concepts and principles of matter and energy. Topics of study include the structure of the atom, properties of matter, the laws of motion and forces, the conservation of energy, and waves. Students will practice mathematical skills in the applications of these concepts.

Chemistry students will explore the fundamental concepts and general principles of modern chemistry. Focus areas include scientific measurement and analysis, atomic structure and properties of matter, chemical nomenclature, balancing equations, stoichiometry, and energy dynamics. Both theoretical and mathematical relationships of the chemistry concepts will be studied.

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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