

Fall 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 12th 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, and we are so excited that you have chosen to take this journey with us. 12th 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 12th 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 12th 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, innovation, and we believe we are poised 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:

History with

English IV or AP Lit with Bubacz

English IV continues to prepare students for discussion and critical thinking required in high school-level courses, higher education, and 21st century careers after graduation. You will read, respond to, and discuss different genres of British and American literature, as well as read independently, both in and out of class. You will hone your writing skills through critical responses, journals, vocabulary, and creative writing activities. You will also complete the research paper portion of the FSI Graduation Service Project and Internship as part of the course.

AP Literature is designed to make you read, write, and think like a scholar. You will develop reading, writing, speaking, listening, and critical thinking skills expected for college study and beyond. Readings are focused heavily on prose fiction and poetry in preparation for the AP Literature & Composition Exam in May, with supplemental nonfiction texts to aid in understanding of literature. We will analyze texts verbally (through seminar and informal class discussions), in writing (through timed writings and extended essays), and through creative projects.

All students will complete the **FSI Graduation Service Project and Internship** in their senior year. English IV students will complete the research paper in their English class, while AP Literature students will complete the paper and other items in the Senior Project elective. Other elements of the project - internship hours, resumes, presentations, etc. - will be completed and tracked as part of the senior Crew curriculum.

Overall and regardless of the course you've chosen, I hope to foster a love for literature and a keen eye for purpose and analysis of all texts to be used in college and beyond!

Math with

Physics with Byan

Conceptual Physics with Parton

Hello Future Scientist, Engineers, and Wonders! Conceptual Physics is a physics class that will study the concepts of physics with less emphasis on math than honors physics. I know what you are thinking, "Yee-ha, no math!" Actually, we will use "real world math," the same type of math used day in and day out in life. The focus will be on the concepts and principles of motion, forces, energy, heat, electricity, magnetism, and the structure of matter in the universe, all of which brilliant scientists have defined and explained as natural processes (how and why objects behave the way they do) in the world around us. Similar to professional scientists, laboratory experiments 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.

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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