

July 31, 2025

Dear Parent/Guardians of a Franklin School 7th or 8th grade student,

The middle school teachers and I have put together this letter in order to help you and your junior high student prepare for the upcoming school year at Franklin and to answer some of the questions you might have. This letter contains the list of recommended school supplies, the dress code requirements, and other key information that parents and students should know before the start of school.

The first day of school will be Wednesday, August 13th. Wednesdays are minimum days for teacher collaboration, so school will end at 1:45 that day. We will start school at 8:20 everyday and end at 2:40 on the rest of the days of the week. Class lists will be posted in front of the school and on the school website at 3:00 on Tuesday, August 12th. Parents Club will also be hosting an ice cream social at the school that day at 3:00 for students who want to check out the school and meet their friends and teachers before the first day of classes. Student Council members will be there to welcome new students and to show them around.

There are two big changes in the junior high teaching staff this year. Michael Barbaccia will be the full time science teacher and we want to welcome Ciara O'Toole to Franklin as the 7th and 8th grade math teacher. We had hoped to have Mr. Barbaccia last year, but he was unable to break his contract at Riverbend where he has been teaching science for seven years. He is a former Franklin student himself, and he is very happy to finally be returning as a teacher. Mrs. O'Toole has been a math teacher for over a decade, most of that time working with middle school students here in Yuba City. After spending last school year teaching freshman math in Oroville, she is very excited to return to teaching here in town and is thrilled to join the Franklin team. We happily welcome these two teachers to Franklin and look forward to a great year.

Franklin will be continuing our after school program this year for families that are looking for a place for their children to do activities and complete homework at the end of the school day. The program offers snacks, activities, and homework help each day until 5:30. Applications are available on the Franklin website (www.franklin.k12.ca.us) or in the school office. For more information or to sign up, please contact Natalie Guillory at nguillory@franklin.k12.ca.us.

Recommended school supplies. Listed below are the supplies that we would like each of the students to have by the first week of school.

- A computer with internet access students can use at home: The junior high teachers will continue to use Google Classroom and Aeries to assign homework and keep track of grades. We will have a class set of Chromebooks in each class for students to use while at school, but students will need

access to a computer at home to finish assignments, check their grades, and email their teachers for help. Students should not bring their laptops from home to school.

- If your child does not have access to a computer or the internet at home, please let us know so that we can look into options or make modifications to homework assignments to prevent them from getting behind.
- a single 2-inch binder: Students will need one three-ring binder to keep their work in for all their classes. These binders will need dividers with separate sections for each subject. The fancy Trapper-Keeper binders and similar zipper-type binders are fine, but a plain, white, 2-inch binder with dividers added will work just as well. **Please do not buy your child a separate binder for each subject.**
- a zipper pouch inside the binder to hold pens, pencils, and erasers.
- lined white filler paper: Students will need enough binder paper to last them the year. A ream of 500 pages should be plenty. They can put 15-20 pages in each section of their binders and leave the rest at home to restock each section when it gets low. **Please do not buy them spiral bound notebooks.** The paper should be loose with straight edges.
- pencils: Students will use pencils everyday. Math classes require that all work be done in pencil. We prefer that students get plain No. 2 wood pencils rather than mechanical pencils. They are more economical and usually less of a hassle since kids with mechanical pencils seem to constantly be running out of lead
- pens: Assignments in history, English, and computer classes can also be done in pen. The pens should be blue or black ink only.
- calculator with square root function: Students will be doing some math this year that will require the use of calculators that have the ability to find the square root of numbers. Although students will be given calculators to use in class, they will have a difficult time completing some homework assignments unless they have a calculator at home. You should be able to find a calculator with square root function for less than ten dollars. **The extremely complicated--and expensive--graphing calculators are not necessary.** Please have them write their name on the calculator.
- graph paper: Students will also be doing some math assignments that will require graph paper to complete correctly. Graph paper will be available during school, but 50 sheets of graph paper at home for homework would be a good idea.
- a backpack: Students will be given lockers this year to store their books and supplies, but they will probably still need backpacks to help transport homework materials to and from school. The backpacks will have to be stored in the lockers during the school day, so be sure to buy a backpack that will fit into a locker with dimensions of 12" wide, 24" high, and 18" deep.
- colored pencils: Some homework assignments will require a set of colored pencils to complete. A box with twelve different colors will work fine.

- AirPods/ear buds:: We provide headphones for students when students are required to listen to lessons on their computers, but students may bring their own airpods. These are optional, but some students prefer them. Please have them write their names on their airpods case.
- a reusable water bottle: Students may not bring sodas, energy drinks, or coffee drinks into class, but we encourage water bottles. We even have a new water bottle filling station available for junior high students to use with refrigerated water. Please make sure they put their name on their water bottles. We end up throwing away dozens of unclaimed and unnamed water bottles during the year.

If you feel you will have difficulty getting any of the things listed above, please contact me, and I can assist you in finding them.

Recommendations for school clothing: It is important for parents and students to know the dress code requirements before doing the school clothes shopping for the fall. I know that parents are often pressured by their middle school children to buy them school clothes that are somewhat questionable when it comes to being appropriate for school. Listed below are the dress code requirements. Please take this with you when you do your school clothes shopping to help your child understand what is appropriate and what is not.

- Shoes must be worn at all times. All types of flip-flops, strapless shoes, and slippers are prohibited because they pose a safety hazard. Sandals must have a manufactured heel strap. Shoes on wheels or roller shoes are not allowed. Students should have footwear that is suitable for outside activities every day.
- Clothing and jewelry shall be free of writing, pictures, or any other insignia which are aggressive, cruel, vulgar, profane, or sexually suggestive. They should not suggest racial, ethnic, or religious prejudice or promote drug, tobacco, or alcohol use.
- Clothing or jewelry deemed to be associated with gang membership will not be allowed.
- Hats need to be worn with the brim facing forward. Hats and hoods are not to be worn in the multi-purpose room during assemblies and hoods need to be removed in the classroom.
- Clothes shall be sufficient to conceal undergarments at all times. No see-through, fish-net fabrics, halter tops, tank tops, off-the-shoulder, bare midriffs, or spandex as outerwear.
- Clothing that has tears or holes in it that show undergarments is not allowed.
- No skirts or shorts are permitted, unless they are longer than fingertip length with the fingers in a relaxed position.
- Pants and shorts must stay above the hips at all times. Oversized pants or excessively tight pants that don't cover the underwear completely are not allowed.
- No pajamas, slippers, or any type of loungewear (such as yoga pants) are permitted at school.

- Leggings must be worn with skirts or long sweaters or shirts that completely cover the person's backside.
- Clothing with printing across the buttocks is not acceptable.
- Students must have appropriate clothing and shoes to fully participate in P.E. activities.
- Any hair coloring (spray or otherwise) that would drip or smear when wet is not allowed.
- Students may not write on their clothing or skin, or on the skin or clothing of other students.

Other information:

Every day after school is out, I will be emailing a homework packet to each of the junior high students' email addresses. It will list what activities happened that day in each class, along with a copy of any assignments or notes from that day. If your child is absent, we expect students to check that email **BEFORE** they return to school the next day so that they know what they missed. Students are responsible for getting and completing all work on days they were absent. Please remind your child to check their email any time they miss school. It is also a good tool for those students who get home and can't remember if they have homework or not.

We strongly advise against taking students on vacations that will cause them to miss multiple school days. We find that students have a difficult time getting caught up and preparing for tests when this happens. **Franklin has scheduled a week off this school year from February 14th - 23rd, which would be the ideal time to schedule family trips if you are looking to travel during off-peak times.** If you do choose to take your child on vacation during the school year, please be aware that we do not provide independent study packets for absences. We will expect the students to check their emails for the work they are missing while they are gone and to complete all assignments and turn them in.

Students who miss three or more consecutive days of school will have to schedule a meeting with each of their teachers after they get back to collect the work that was missed. Again, it will then be the responsibility of the student to turn in the completed homework and make-up missing tests or quizzes in a timely manner to receive credit.

Sports/Extracurricular eligibility: We are continuing the policy of requiring students who participate in sports and extra-curricular activities to meet high expectations for grades, discipline, and attendance. Students participating in extracurricular activities must not receive any grade below a C- in the core classes, must have less than two citations, and must keep a 90% attendance rate for the year. Please take this into account before scheduling vacations during the school year since it might affect your child's eligibility to participate in school sports and activities. Coaches will set the eligibility requirements for each sport and make them known to students and parents at the start of the season. If you have any questions about this policy, please contact me.

Attendance: If your child is going to be absent from school, please call the office and let the attendance secretary know as soon as possible. Please make sure that your child checks their email at the end of the day if they are absent to get the work they missed and bring them to school early the next day to get help completing the work if they need help.

Sports equipment: Students should also refrain from bringing their own sports equipment or balls to school without permission. It becomes a problem when this equipment is lost, stolen, or ends up on the roof of one of the buildings.

Bussing and supervision before/after school: If your child rides the bus to and from school each day, you will want to check the bus schedule that will be posted on the Franklin School website (www.franklin.k12.ca.us). Make sure that you have made any necessary changes for day-care and supervision for your child before school starts. Also, be aware that the school does not have anyone available to supervise students on the school campus before 7:55 am and after 3:00 pm. each day, unless they are enrolled in the afterschool program. If you were planning on having your child at school during these times, please make other arrangements before the start of school.

Finally, if you would like to contact your child's teachers with a question or concern, you can use the ParentSquare app or use the email addresses below. I will be using ParentSquare to send a weekly junior high message to parents every Monday evening. It will include important junior high announcements and information on upcoming events. Please be sure to read it over every Monday or Tuesday to make sure that you know what is going on at school since students are often not good at relaying that information to their parents.

On behalf of all of the middle school teachers, I want to thank you in advance for your support. With your help, I am sure that this will be an outstanding school year for everyone. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or text me at the number below.

Sincerely,

Erick Dahl
Franklin School junior high teacher/vice principal
Cell#: (530) 520-4861

Junior high staff emails:

Erick Dahl, History/Health teacher
Jack Johnson, English/Phys. Ed. teacher
Ciara O'Toole, Math teacher
Michael Barbaccia, Science teacher

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