



FULBRIGHT JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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BENTONVILLE, AR 72712

HOME OF THE TIMBER WOLVES

PHONE: (479) 802-7000

PRINCIPAL- BRADLEY WEBBER

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS- BRYAN APPLETON & RUTH CANARD

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Dear FJHS Parents and Guardians,

I feel so fortunate to have your child in my class! I am excited to start the school year off on a positive note. During this first quarter, students will be getting used to new procedures; please feel free to ask questions at any time. Email is the most effective means of initial contact, but I'm always happy to arrange a 1:1 conference when needed. We will begin the year developing effective work habits and establishing strong relationships in the classroom.

Grading in my classes (and in **many** other FJHS classrooms) will look different this year. Extensive research shows that letter grades can hinder student growth. Our focus should be on improving and mastering a skill or concept rather than simply collecting points to "get a grade." By eliminating letter grades, assessments can focus on solely two things: **improvement** over time and **mastery** of skills taught. Each skill will be introduced in various ways, and students will have multiple opportunities to demonstrate growth. Due to limitations of our eSchool gradebook, grades based upon standards cannot be entered. The 1-4 scale (included) will help you and your child understand the conversion formula that represents varied levels of mastery. Students and parents will still see a percentage in the gradebook, but the percentage is based upon the 1-4 "Standards-Based Grading Scale."

To facilitate student growth and autonomy, frequent 1:1 conferences will be conducted with students to verbally reflect upon individual levels of growth and mastery. The implementation of Standards-Based Grading may take a bit of time to understand, but once students get used to it, they love tracking their progress, work to develop weaknesses into strengths, and show greater growth throughout the year.

My class is a 21st Century classroom and each student is assigned a laptop. I have sent a Technology Policy agreement form home with your student that must be signed by both parent and student before laptops are assigned. Most learning and record keeping will be kept by students online in order that they can track their data to share with parents, so expect periodic updates from your student about their progress in class, achievements, weaknesses, and future goals. In consideration of this, please provide your child with the email address with which they can best touch base. I will be included on these email contacts and would like there to be regular communication between all of us.

I have an "open door policy" and encourage parents to be involved in education. I know the concept of Standards-Based Grading may be a new concept to many, and I want to stress that I am happy to meet with you to further explain the rationale behind this initiative if you have further questions! I'm looking forward to a fun year of learning alongside your child!!

Sincerely,

Jessica Humphrey

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