

# ANNIE SULLIVAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

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*"Make yourself the kind of person that you want people to think you are. "*

*Socrates*

December 7, 2010

Dear Parents and eighth graders:

It is hard to believe that it is December and that one-third of the school year is over. I know from past experience that the rest of the eighth grade year will fly by. It seems like yesterday that I was writing to you about sixth grade and coming to Annie Sullivan. The eighth grade year is indeed an exciting time as we close one chapter and open another new chapter in your lives. We are committed to our students finishing their middle school years on the best possible note that they can, and we are here to support them in that endeavor.

Three of the most important goals each year at Annie Sullivan are to support each student's academic growth, to help him/her grow as a learner and to prepare him/her for the next level. Each year, it is our charge to make sure that each student has the tools necessary to realize his/her full capabilities. I am very confident that our students will be ready academically to make the transition to high school in June. Students need to work diligently, ask for help when needed and take responsibility for their own learning. We have taken great care to structure the eighth grade year to ensure that your student will have the necessary strategies and tools for success.

As we move to the second term of the year, we increase, and will continue to increase, our expectations both in the quality and quantity of student work including homework. As a freshman at Franklin High School, your student can expect a minimum of two and one half (2 ½) hours of nightly homework. This is an increase from what your student has experienced at the middle level. In anticipation of this high school expectation, we have expanded our expectations and your student should be devoting approximately two (2) hours a night to daily homework, organization, long term projects and reading.

I have had the opportunity to visit eighth grade classrooms regularly over the last several weeks and have been impressed with the rigor that is evident, the high level of student engagement and the commitment to high quality and thoughtful instruction. You can expect a full and vigorous schedule for your student, both in school and out of school, for the remainder of the school year. It is our goal to challenge and encourage each student to do his/her best to make certain that he/she is ready for high school.

After the winter break I will send out another communication that outlines many of the extra curricular activities that take place at the end of the eighth grade year. In order to be eligible to participate in these activities, an eighth grade student must be in good standing both academically and behaviorally.

We are here to help each student realize success. I look forward to a very productive remainder of the year and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your teachers or me.

Very truly yours,

Beth A. Wittcoff,  
Principal