



Mr. Leifer's 7th-8th Grade

Getting Ready for High School

In the upper grades classroom students take even greater ownership of their education. Technology is integrated regularly into nearly all subject areas. Students regularly utilize their own Microsoft Office 365 account, Gmail, and other online resources. Knowing that high school is the next step, content gets much more challenging across all subject areas. Upper graders also get to participate in several special events during the school

day such as the TELSS Cross Country Meet, Choral Festival, Eagle Day, Forensics/Academic Bowl, Environmental Education Camp, and the TELSS Softball Tournament.



CLASSROOM FEATURES

1:1 Chromebooks

Discovery Education
Techbooks

Accelerated Reader

Multiple Teachers
– Good preparation
for high school

Corrections/Retakes
– mistakes are an
opportunity for
academic growth

Faith Lutheran School

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<http://faithtacoma.com/#/classrooms/grades-6-8>

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Classroom Talking Points

Assignment Journal – At the end of each day your child should check to make sure all assignments are written down in their assignment journal and highlight any unfinished work to go home. Please talk with your child about school each night so that you are aware of the material we are covering in school and to check for completion. Your involvement positively impacts their achievement.

School Supplies – Please purchase **only** the supplies on the list. Please do not allow your child to bring any unnecessary materials. (i.e. pencil grips, toys, electronics, etc.) If they are found they will be confiscated and returned to the parent. Cell phones/electronics must be turned in to me each morning and will be returned at the end of the school day.

Take-Home Folder – Every Tuesday your child will bring home their “Pony Express” Take-Home folder. On the left side of the folder you should find any permission slips, athletic announcements, or special notes. On the right side of the folder you will find all graded work. **Please remove the graded work and announcements each Tuesday night.**

Chromebooks – Science, Social Studies, Music techbooks will be online this year. Office 365, Gmail, and other online supplements and practice will also be used. Resources that we access only need an internet browser, so even if you did not purchase a Chromebook for your child to take home, they can still get to everything they need with any computer.

Corrections/Retakes/Extra Credit – If your child receives an F on a regular daily assignment they will be given the opportunity to ask for help and fix their mistakes the next school day. Once completed, I will recorrect the assignment and average the first and second grades to get the final grade which gets recorded. For longer term assignments and for tests, the students can request a retake. Retakes will cover the same content, but be in a different format so that students are not just memorizing answers. Regularly throughout the year opportunities are given to earn extra credit, which will either erase mistakes made on an assignment or be entered as additional points earned. If you or your child feel that the current grade does not reflect their actual achievement level, extra credit projects can be requested.

Lunches/Snacks – No candy or soda pop, please. NO PEANUTS! If you would like your child to use the microwave at lunch, it should be something that can be warmed up in less than 2 minutes (e.g. leftovers) rather than something that should be cooked for a long time (e.g. frozen dinners or easy mac). This will ensure that all students to have time to warm up food and eat before recess. **Please provide any plates, silverware, etc. that your child will need.**

Routines/Rules/Discipline – Students will be taught expectations and routines in the first weeks. Charts are posted around the room. You will notice that there is no standard discipline plan. God has created each student with unique talents and abilities. Also, each disciplinary situation is unique. Therefore, I will handle disciplinary issues individually and when all parties involved are calm. If your child feels that the discipline received is unfair, they will be instructed as to the proper way to approach me. Possible disciplinary actions are: loss of recess time, write an apology, loss of privileges at home, serving an after-school detention, not being allowed to participate in sporting events, etc.

Homework Amount and Suggestoins – On average each night your child should have about 30-60 minutes of homework, with some nights slightly more and some slightly less. My goal is to make sure that your child is being challenged academically, but not overwhelmed. If you notice that your child consistently outside this range, please speak with me so that we can adjust things in the classroom or increase/decrease the workload expected. Thank you!

Communication - If you have concerns about your child’s education, please come and speak with me. Most days I will be in my office until about 4:30pm. I am also available by email principal@faithtacoma.com or on my cell (253)625-4779. Please read our weekly class news that will be emailed out and our whole-school *Falcon Flash*. Please also utilize our online gradebook **TADS Educate**. Instructions to access the parent portal will come within the first week of school.