



Kenneth Darsney, Interim Principal

200 Sanborn Street
Franklin, New Hampshire 03235
Telephone 603-934-5828
Fax 603-934-2432

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Dear Parents and Guardians of Franklin Middle School incoming 4th Graders:

The staff and I are pleased to welcome you (the 4th graders are new but I'm sure many have older siblings) to Franklin Middle School. Along with your child, I am enthusiastically (and maybe a little anxiously) looking forward to my first year here. As I'm sure you are aware, we, along with Paul Smith School, are in the process of making some adaptations to our instructional practices to provide more individualized instruction and further promote a more child centered learning environment. The program "***NG2: No Grades, No Grades Personalized Inclusive Education Pathways Through Multiage Competency-based Education***" is a new and innovative way to look at how we teach and how students learn.

As we shared earlier, here at the Middle School will be offering a wing that will follow a "family" model. This will mean that within this wing there will be students in all grade levels, 4-8 who will meet with teachers to receive instruction according to where their abilities and needs are, rather than their traditionally assigned grade. This will mean that if a student needs instruction above, on, or below grade level they will be able to receive this, and move on as they are ready. If additional instruction is needed, that is also part of the model. Please note that students will have Allied Arts with other Grade 4 students. We are in the process of looking at lunch and recess to see if all enrolled as 4th graders can have some or all together to provide for social interaction.

We are sensitive to the fact that having students in multiple grade levels all working together is a huge shift, and that this new methodology will raise questions. We are beginning this transition with only one wing next year. Parents will have the ability to decide if their child is best suited in a traditional classroom or for their child to participate in this new opportunity. I am pleased to announce that we have a few more choice 4th grade slots to fill, and if you have not done so yet please contact the school so we can get your child enrolled.

In the 2017-2018 school year, we had a number of classrooms beginning the process of meeting students where they are academically, and allowing them to move at their own pace. We have seen great results with this model and are eager to move it onto a bigger scale. If you need additional information please contact me at the school, extension 2002 or email kdarsney@sau18.org. If you would like to learn more about NG2 it can be found online at their website <https://www.ng2personalizedlearning.org/>. Thank you again for the privilege of serving your families and the Franklin Community.

Yours truly,

Ken Darsney (Mr. "D")
Franklin Middle School
Interim Principal