Craftsbury Academy

Letter To Parents/Guardians

To the Parents and/or Guardians of Students,

My name is Ethan Self, and I could not be more excited for this year at Craftsbury Academy, for science and beyond! I recently moved to Craftsbury from my hometown of Richmond, Vermont! This will be my first year of teaching, but I couldn’t be happier to have found such a wonderful school and community! This year in science, across courses, we will be focusing on the **3 C’s**: **curiosity, critical thinking, and community** **in science.** I want to make science an engaging and challenging learning experience for your student this year. **Below are a few goals/reminders, some of which are expanded upon in your student’s syllabi, towards your student’s success this year.**

1. Some materials/classroom supplies for success are a 1-2” binder for this class. Plastic dividers would be extremely helpful to organize the binder by quarter, assignment type, or more.I have lined paper in my classroom, but a notebook would very beneficial. I have plenty of art/project supplies for classroom use. **The most important ‘tool’ for success is getting good rest (8-9 hours for teenagers), a balanced lifestyle, and eating well!**
2. Craftsbury is progressing towards a ‘proficiency-based’ system of grading, which is too detailed to explain in this short letter. However, your son or daughter will have a significant portion of their grade determined by their **habits of work**, which they will self-assess and reflect upon periodically. **I will help each of them reflect on their learning habits, and develop individual goals for them in and out of the classroom for greater success.**
3. My biggest goal for this year is to help encourage and mentor each student towards becoming a more **curious, respectful, and active student** **in the classroom and the community**. Please encourage them at home to bring in outside information, projects, or questions into our class!
4. **I’ve set up a series of resources to help students in and out of the classroom.** A class website, **craftsburyscience.weebly.com** will be updated daily with course agendas, resources to expand learning, assignment information and more. Students and myself will also update a classroom blog on the website. Students and parents alike can find daily assignments and current scientific news on twitter **@CraftsburySci**. Schoology will also be updated with most major assignments and links to documents.

Please feel free to contact me at anytime with **questions, concerns, or a possible collaboration** with me at eself@ossu.org, or 586-2541. Again, I can’t wait to begin a year of science, exploration, and discovery with your learners!

-Ethan Self, Science Teacher