Dear Parents and Guardians,

 Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year at Landrum High! I am extremely excited for this school year ahead and think it will be one of the best yet. Your student is enrolled in my Earth Science course this semester. This course will be taught in a rigorous but fun and creative manner. Students will be responsible for creating, working in, reflecting on and LOVING their Interactive Science Notebook. This is a model that utilizes both the right and left hemispheres of your student’s brain, helping them to learn to organize AND internalize what it is that they are learning. The projected goal is prolonged retention of the knowledge obtained and true success in the class as well as on the Final Exam that concludes this class. Your student will receive detailed instructions for their notebook in the next few days. Please take a moment to review the criteria and expectations for the Interactive Science Notebook (ISN) with your student and help him/her pick out proper materials. If you have any questions and/or concerns with this matter, please feel free to contact me at the school or via email: allison.ramsay@spart1.org. I think this model is going to be really engaging and fun, while challenging your student to use his/her critical thinking AND creative/visual skills!

 I use Google Classroom to communicate with students and post virtual materials. Each student has be given a school email address, that can be accessed from anywhere. This email, along with a class code (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_), will enroll your student in my online classroom. **Please feel free to join the class as well!!** I will be using this program to post due dates of upcoming events, assignments and assessments in class. I will always post the dates in class as well.

This platform is also how students will receive instructions and assignments for any days they attend class virtually. Students may request paper versions of materials the day ahead of time and some virtual days will have students working on paper materials sent home. At any time, I would suggest students (and parents) check Classroom for a message from me!

Students will also be using their Chromebooks outside of class. Students will complete virtual lab assignments that allow them to view models of the hugely macroscopic (the cosmos) and the microscopic components (composition of rocks) of the class and to gain further perspective on the subject matter. Students may also review materials posted prior to a test or major grade.

And as always, there is Parent Portal, via the school, where you can check up on your student’s progress in class. This gradebook is always a work in progress and is subject to change quite frequently. Please see your student’s syllabus for a breakdown of how the grade is calculated. And please see Mrs. Josey in the front office if you are not signed up for Parent Portal already.

Lastly, **NO CELL PHONE USAGE IS ALLOWED DURING THE SCHOOL DAY. THIS INCLUDES BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, MAKING PHONE CALLS, TEXTING AND SOCIAL MEDIA USAGE. NO PICTURES ARE TO BE TAKEN IN THE CLASSROOM.THE USE OF SMART WATCHES AND WIRELESS HEADPHONES IS ALSO PROHIBITED.**

I look forward to meeting you and working with your student this semester!!

 Best Regards,

 Alli Ramsay