January 5, 2015

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to **Consumer Focus** with Ms. Anderson. I am very excited to be a part of the Salem Middle family and look forward to another semester filled with learning and fun! Throughout the semester we will explore many different topics through completing a variety of activities and projects. This class will cover modules 2: Personal Finance, 4: Food Service and Hospitality and 6: Apparel.

In this class we will first learn about **Personal Finance** and resource management through many class assignments and a computer program called EverFi Vault. You will learn the difference between needs and wants, how to set goals now and in the future, how to best manage your money and plan for the future, how advertising affects your buying and how to make a good, sound decision. Through EverFi, each student will have the opportunity to achieve his/her Personal Financial Literacy certification.

Next we will explore **Food Service and Hospitality** by learning about foodborne illnesses and how to set a table and following proper table etiquette. Throughout this module we will be using eFoodHandlers computer/online program to learn valuable information that enables you to protect yourself and your customers from foodborne illnesses. Each student will complete the program and take a “test” online to earn his/her eFoodHandlers certification. Throughout the semester each student will work with lab groups to prepare healthy snacks, side dishes and desserts. Good behavior is required to participate in the cooking labs. Also, each unit test must be signed and returned in order to participate in the following cooking lab.

We will also understand the basic principles of **Apparel**. We will first understand the factors that influence your clothing choices with a focus on the elements of design (colors, lines, shapes, textures, and spaces). Next we will focus on basic construction techniques through learning the uses of many different sewing tools, hand sewing techniques and how to operate a sewing machine. We will also learn how to read and follow a sewing pattern by creating simple sewing projects such as but not limited to fleece hats, travel tissue holders, gym bags and pillows. We will conclude with understanding the function of clothing and how clothing is marketed to influence your choices. We will discuss your personal style, the pieces of clothing that make up a wardrobe and where/how to shop for clothing.

We will complete a variety of sewing projects throughout the semester. I will send home a project supply list a week or two before the beginning of the project if you would like to purchase your own supplies (fabric, buttons, ribbon, etc.).

For **Consumer Focus class** each student will need a 1” binder to keep his/her weekly packets and class materials together. Weekly packets will be given out at the start of each week and collected and graded at the end of each week. Also, remember to bring a pencil or pen to class every day.

I am looking forward to a great semester full of learning and fun! Please read over all the rules and expectations with your student to assure a safe and orderly classroom. This letter is to be returned with parent/guardian AND student signatures by **Monday, January 12th.**

**Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Thank you,

**Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Sarah Anderson

**Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  E-mail: sanderson4@wcpss.net

 Salem Middle: (919) 363-187

**A 93-100 Tests/Quizzes: 40% \*\*10 points will be deducted from**

**B 85-92 Projects/labs: 25% the final assignment grade each**

**C 77-84 Classwork/Homework: 30% day the assignment is late.**

**D 70-76 Participation: 5%**

**F Below 70**

**Quizzes/Tests:** After each concept learned in class, there will be a quiz/test given. The quiz/test may consist of multiple choice, matching, true/false, fill in the blank, and short answer. Not all quizzes are announced! Study daily!

**Projects/labs:** All projects and labs will be graded following a provided rubric.

**Classwork/Homework:** Classwork will be assigned to work on during class and include the weekly packets. Occasional homework may be given and will be due on the assigned due date.

**Participation:** All students are expected to be active participants in the classroom. Class participation includes arriving to class on time, having all materials and contributing to class discussions.

**Make-up work:** It is a student’s responsibility to ask about missed work and assignments due to an absence.

# Classroom Rules and Expectations

* Be in your seat with your binder and weekly packet out and ready to work when the bell rings. Begin to work on the “warm-up” found in your weekly packet.
* You will not be allowed to leave the room at any time unless it is an emergency. Make sure to use the restroom before entering the classroom.
* All students must clean up his/her own work area/kitchen before leaving class. All binders, materials, and supplies must be neatly returned to the designated place. Students will **not** be dismissed until all areas are clean!
* All safety rules must be followed when in class and working on a project. Any student found not following a safety rule will receive a deduction in his/her grade.

**Class website: exploringlifeskills.weebly.com**