Dear Parents,

Your student is currently enrolled in **Project Lead The Way Stem Education**. Middle school is the perfect time for students to explore and learn that there is more than one way to reach a solution. **PLTW Gateway** provides engineering curriculum for middle school students that challenges, inspires, and offers variety and flexibility. Students get rigorous and relevant experiences through activity-, project-, and problem-based learning. They use industry-leading technology to solve problems while gaining skills in communication, collaboration, critical-thinking, and creativity.

Please review with your student the syllabus for the course as outlined in the following pages. Your assistance in reviewing and discussing this with your student will be most appreciated.

**Course Syllabus**

All three of our Wenatchee Middle School tech labs are teaching the PLTW Gateway curriculum starting this year. It is a one semester class with one quarter of **Design and Modeling** and the second quarter working on **Robotics**.

**Design & Modeling** Students apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They work in teams to design a playground and furniture, capturing research and ideas in their engineering notebooks. Using Autodesk® design software, students create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their innovative solutions.

**Automation & Robotics** Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.
Tech Lab Grading

Students will be evaluated on their understandings of the PLTW STEM Standards. Class attendance, participation and attitude are important in order to be successful in the STEM class. The following is a general description of the 4-point rubric used when assessing student work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Exceeding Standard</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Meeting Standard</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Approaching Standard</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Below Standard</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>No Evidence</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The student goes above and beyond the minimum requirements

The student meets the minimum requirement for meeting standard

The student shows partial knowledge of the standard

The student has significant gaps in understanding of a standard

Standard being assessed is not addressed by the student.

Classroom Management:

Make Your Day is the citizenship program that is being used by all of Foothills Middle School. It is based on one rule that is posted in each classroom. “No One Has The Right To Interfere With The Learning Or Safety Of Others”.

Parents: Please sign and return this bottom section to indicate that you have seen the Tech Syllabus.

Student

Date

Parent

Date

Parent email address: