

Dear Parents of Snyder ISD Students,

We are the FFA Advisors at Snyder High School. We are writing this letter to you to help explain the Snyder FFA, Agricultural Science Classes, and describe some of the opportunities for your student in our program at Snyder High School.

While this letter may be lengthy, we didn't want to miss out on the chance to explain all of the exciting opportunities that our program will have to offer your student as they enter high school. If you have any questions, or need help with anything, please feel free to email any of us.

### **What is FFA?**

The FFA is a dynamic youth leadership organization whose mission is to “*enhance the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.*” It is our goal to help your student develop into the absolute best person they can be NO MATTER what their future career may be. We have regularly scheduled activities (meetings, community service, etc.). We have multiple competitive events and career development activities which can build student confidence, public speaking abilities, critical thinking, and soft skills. Whether your child has a future in college getting a Ph.D., or planning on going directly into the workforce after high school, FFA has something for everyone!

Fun Fact: College professors actually rank INVOLVEMENT in the FFA as the top reason to recruit academic students! College admission officers and collegiate scholarship committee members view FFA as the top organization in high schools.

### **[The Value of Agricultural Science Education and the Texas FFA Association](#)**

### **High School Ag Classes:**

In order to be in the FFA, it is a federal law that a student MUST BE ENROLLED IN AN AG CLASS. We have diverse options of courses for your child to choose. One of the documents attached to this email is a list of courses that we offer. While we do teach the content of the course, we also work on competitive events and applications in class. We believe Agriculture is important as it accounts for nearly twenty percent of the careers in the United States in over three hundred career fields nationwide. Our primary focus is to help students become leaders in their career fields.

### **Scheduling:**

If you think your schedule is too full to take an ag class and be in FFA, contact one of the ag teachers and we can possibly help you out!

### **Membership in the FFA:**

Students become members of the FFA on the local, district, area, state, and national level through their enrollment in an ag class at SHS. We utilize the affiliation fee for those

memberships. We do have an encouraged local membership fee of \$10/year to help pay for costs of regular meetings, travel not covered by the district, and our annual awards banquet. FFA Activities: We have regularly scheduled meetings throughout the school year. We will have leadership teams in the fall and judging teams in the spring as well as public speaking and science fair in the late spring and summer.

**FFA SCHOLARSHIPS:** This is the MOST important information for you to read! There is money involved! There are multiple scholarships on multiple levels for FFA students. Most of these scholarships through FFA require four years of FFA membership, good grades, and heavy involvement to be eligible. The FFA Booster Club scholarships only require two years of membership. Students may also now receive BOTH FFA and 4-H Scholarships. Please see the attached document for a deeper understanding of the scholarship programs. In 2021, Snyder FFA members earned \$23,000 in Texas FFA Scholarships, and in 2022 Snyder FFA members earned another \$35,000!!

We know this is a lot of information, and it can be quite overwhelming. The most important mission of the Snyder FFA and Agriculture program is to build a family of love, support, and desire to better our community and our world. We treat our students like our own children. Many of them come to the ag building when they need to discuss school, need help with algebra or chemistry, or just need to talk. We love each and every one of our students and work our hardest to provide every opportunity for them to be successful in their future education and careers. We hope you will choose for your child to take an agriculture science class. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us. We would love to talk with you about options for your student and their future.

Sincerely,  
The Ag Teachers

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