Math 8 Course Syllabus 2017-2018

**What will I learn?**

In Math 8, you will continue to build a foundation for Algebra and future mathematics courses. Our focus will be on: solving equations and inequalities, simplifying expressions with radicals and exponents, proportional relationships, linear equations, systems of linear equations, functions, bivariate data, geometrical transformations, and theorems related to triangles and angles.

**What do I need to bring?**

These supplies need to be brought to class every day: **pencil, pen, notebook for MATH ONLY, scientific calculator, the Math 8 textbook and the Record and Practice Journal.**

I expect all students to be prepared for class every day. Extra pencils, paper, calculators, and textbooks will be available for student use if they forget something in their locker. I also have a few extra supplies I will give students to keep (please ask if you need something). For these reasons, there is **NO EXCUSE** for not taking notes or participating in another class activity. If you don’t bring your materials or get them from the baskets, I will give you a tardy. If you still do not work you will be sent to the principal’s office to do your work there.

**How will I be graded?**

This year I am continuing to use Standards Based Grading (SBG). Most of your grade in class will come from how well you demonstrate your understanding of each of our expectations (or standards) on small quizzes throughout the unit as well as a summative test at the end of the unit. The remaining portion of your grade will be from the weekly First Five activity, the semester finals, and class projects that may be assigned. See the **Parent/Student Guidelines to Standards Based Grading page** for more details.

**What homework will I have?**

You will be assigned work on occasion to practice what we’ve learned in class or to extend upon a particular concept. I am going to try to limit assignments to 1-2 nights per week (however that could increase, depending on your productivity in class). While your practice work will not be given a “grade”, I will still collect it and review it. All assignments that you do are in preparation for success on each of the expectations that I mentioned earlier and should be completed. After 3 missing OR incomplete assignments, I will send a note home for your parents/guardians to sign. If you have 3 more missing OR incomplete assignments after that I will assign a detention. There you will work on your missing assignments or another assignment that I give. You will also complete a homework improvement plan.

**What do I do if I miss class?**

Attendance in class is critical. It’s much harder to miss a math class because you miss out on the lesson and discussion we have. Making up an assignment doesn’t fix that. You should make every effort to be in class as much as possible! If you do have to miss class, you need to check the absent binder in the back for a description of what we did that day and what practice work was assigned. If you miss a test, then you need to schedule a time with me to do a reassessment. Getting back on track after an absence is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

**What if I need more help?**

I will be available for tutoring most days after school. Please let me know if you need to see me ahead of time so I can make sure I’m available. You may also see me before school if you have a quick question.

My classroom website will be updated daily- there you can find any assignments given that day, other announcements, and additional online resources. It can be accessed from the school webpage (www.wmr1.k12.mo.us) by clicking on the JH/HS tab at the top, and then clicking on my name.

**What else do I need to know?**

Classroom Expectations/School Policies

My classroom expectations are to act in a respectful manner and to be a responsible student. If you are not being respectful or responsible after a warning you will not be permitted to participate in my class. You will be sent to the hallway and/or to the principal’s office. Please review the school policies found in the student handbook. I will follow all policies stated in the book and will take measures to enforce them. Note the cell phone policy in particular- they are not allowed during school hours! Cell phones will be confiscated without a previous warning.

Leaving the Room

You should get a drink, use the restroom, and visit your locker during the passing period. Unless it is an emergency, you will not be able to leave the room without obtaining permission and signing out once class has started. Generally, if you ask me to go to their locker for forgotten items or to the restroom/water fountain before the bell rings then you may go without receiving a tardy.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, will not be tolerated in this class. You are allowed and encouraged to work together and to help one another, but each YOU are responsible for your OWN work and thinking. It does not help to copy down a practice assignment but not understand what you are writing!

**Parents/Guardians:**

I expect my policies to remain firm throughout the year. Yet I understand the need for flexibility. Certain policies stated here may change, with or without prior notice, depending on the needs of the class and with my consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me with regards to questions or concerns. You may email me or call the school number listed below. I will get back to you as soon as I can!

Looking forward to a great year,

Mrs. Kayla Algiere

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