

Grade 7 Mathematics Syllabus

Ottoson Middle School Math Department

SY 2015-2016

Ms. Rice, room 204

Welcome! This will be a year of hard work, but hopefully we can have some fun too. In order to achieve this, I need you all to work with me. It is my goal to do the best I can so that we can all learn and grow as much as possible. I ask the best from each of you as well. Listed below are my expectations and requirements. I have underlined the most important things. Please read carefully and make a note to ask any questions you may have. You will get a chance to ask these questions in a little while. I will ask you and a parent/guardian to sign at the bottom to show that you have read, understand, and accept these guidelines.

Expectations

1. Respectful behavior is the norm in the classroom.
2. Students are expected to arrive to class on time. If you are late, you must have a pass. Take your assigned seat, take out your homework and look at the board for further instruction.
3. To ask a question, comment about the subject at hand, or request to be excused, raise your hand. You must obtain a pass to leave the room.
4. No food or drink, other than water, is permitted in the classroom.
5. Cell phones, iPods, and other electronic devices may not be used during class.

Material Requirements

It is important to come to class prepared each and every day. The following materials will be required of all students and should be in class every day.

1. A 3-ring binder, at least 1 inch, with three labeled sections: Classwork, Homework, and Tests/Quizzes. This binder is for math only.
2. At least 3 pencils (sharpened at the beginning of class), eraser, and a pen for correcting.
3. Plenty of lined paper and graph paper.
4. A scientific calculator carefully labeled with name of student owner. I recommend the TI-30X IIS.

See *Staying Organized* under the Math section of the cluster website for more detail

Homework

1. Expect homework every night. In order to learn anything well, it must be practiced and reinforced. Attempt every problem.
2. Homework assignments will be assessed and reviewed daily. Correct your work in pen. Write correct answers and make notes.
3. Homework is typically graded on completeness. It is your job to correct and ask questions! I love questions of all types, obvious and challenging.
4. You MUST show work to receive credit. (In case you are wondering what showing work means, pay attention to the way I do problems on the board.)
5. On occasion homework will be submitted electronically. Plan accordingly when this happens.
6. Homework is graded on a scale of 0 to 5.

See the *Homework Rubric* for more details

Absences

1. It is your responsibility to find out what assignments were missed, get any necessary materials from the Absent Binder, and make up the assignments within two days of returning to school.
2. Check the class website or ask a friend for missed assignments. I try to update the website daily and attach worksheets directly to the homework page, but sometimes this does not happen. Homework not being on the website is not an excuse to not do the work.
3. There will be a place on my desk to turn in any late/absent work.
4. You are expected to make up any missed quizzes or tests the day you return. Please speak with me to set up a time.
5. Out for a while? Just come see me the day you get back. We can work something out. (Even better, if you know you'll be away, talk to me before!)

Extra Help

If you are having difficulty with this course, extra help will be available on Mondays and Wednesdays after school from 2:30 to 3:15.

All other times are by appointment ONLY

Quizzes and Tests

1. There will be regular quizzes and tests. Graded quizzes and tests should be kept in your binder for future studying use.
2. Well organized notes are essential as some assessments will allow the free use of your notebook.
3. Tests and quizzes will be graded using a points system. The total will always be listed when you get your paper back in the form of a fraction.

My grading follows the traditional letter grade format:

F = $< 60\%$ = Failing. The student has not demonstrated an acceptable level of mastery and needs to work harder and/or see me for extra help.

D = 60 - 69% = Below Average. The student is passing but has demonstrated mastery below the average level for this course. The student should work harder and/or see me for extra help.

C = 70 - 79% = Average. The student has demonstrated an acceptable level of mastery and should be commended.

B = 80 - 89% = Above Average. The student has demonstrated above average work and is deserving of much praise.

A = $\geq 90\%$ = Excellent. The student has mastered the material and has demonstrated extraordinary achievement. This student and his or her family should feel very proud.

Grading Policy

Your math grade each term will be computed as follows:

- Classwork 15% - includes preparedness for class, binder organization, and participation
- Homework 15% - includes nightly assignments completed at home
- Tests/Quizzes 70% - includes all graded assignments completed in class

Yes you will have a final exam, and yes it will count toward your grade

Communication

The best way for students and parents to reach me outside of school is by email. Students, if it is a quick question I am likely to respond relatively quickly. Parents, this does not always happen, so please allow at least 48 hours for a response.

E-Mail: jrice@arlington.k12.ma.us

My number is 781-316-3745, extension 1204. Between the hours of 8:00 and 2:30, calls will be automatically routed to my voicemail, which I try to check daily.

Website: <http://770scluster.com>

Some Final Thoughts

Your ideas and feedback are welcome. Please see me after class if you have any great ideas or something important you wish to tell me. I am willing to change if you think you have a better way of doing something! I am a reasonable person and happy to discuss with you any questions or suggestions you have.

I look forward to working with all of you and hope to have a fantastic year.

Sincerely,

Ms. Rice

Acceptance of Class Expectations

We, (student) _____,

and (parent or guardian) _____,

have read the expectations for this math class, and have found these expectations to be of a high standard, to be fair and reasonable, and to be consistent with the policies and standards of Ottoson Middle School.