

Eighth Grade Algebra

2011-2012

Mr. Bosma and Mrs. Smit/Mrs. Grabinski

Information sharing:

Classroom blog: hms8thgrademath.blogspot.com

-Included on the blog are:

- contact information
- weekly schedule of events
- necessary materials for class
- grading scale
- grade weights
- helpful websites

Competencies emphasized:

Eighth Grade Algebra will target the Eighth Grade *Grade Level Content Expectations* (GLCEs) as developed by the Michigan Department of Education. Information will be shared in January regarding how to receive high school credit for Algebra. Below you will find a list of critical concepts that will be covered.

- Types of numbers
- Equations, tables and graphs for the following equations/inequalities:
 - Linear
 - Exponential
 - Quadratic
- Factoring
- Probability
- Geometry

Classroom expectations:

Communicate! Communicate! Communicate!

- Are you missing a necessary item for class?
- Did you not complete the assignment?
- Is something going to keep you from completing tonight's assignment?
- Do you know of any days you will not be able to make it to class?
- Are you having trouble understanding a concept?
- Is there something that's just not "working" in class?

Communicate any questions or concerns as early as possible. This will help the teacher to be more flexible.

Respect

10% of life is what happens to you, 90% of life is how you react to it. Make it respectful.

Responsibility

Concern yourself with the things you can control.

Choices

If you decide to make good choices, then I won't have to decide on a consequence.

Materials to bring to class:

- ◇ Notetaking Guide
- ◇ Calculator
- ◇ Loose-leafed lined paper in a two-pocket folder
- ◇ Pencil with eraser (just in case you make a mistake☺)
- ◇ Two-pocket folder with loose-leafed paper in it

The daily routine of this class includes the following:

1. Warm up

- Students will participate in a concept review game, a review of homework, a preview of new concepts or other activity to engage in mathematical thinking.

2. Lesson

- Students will be provided new information in the form of notes, oral instruction and hands-on activities.

3. Practice

- Students will be required to practice the mathematical skills that were learned during the lesson. During the practice portion of class students will have the opportunity to ask for clarification in order to be successful with the covered material. Practice may occur during class time, however, it will be necessary to complete problems for homework as well.

Our blog is set up with specific lesson topics and assignments for the week.

4. Long Term

- GLCE tests are given approximately every 3 months and will check the abilities of the students to retain the material that has been covered throughout the year. This compares to a chapter test that will check the understanding the students have of the building blocks along with the big ideas of a specific chapter.

Grade Scale

A 93 - 100%

A- 90 - 92%

B+ 87 - 89%

B 83 - 86%

B- 80 - 82%

C+ 77 - 79%

C 73 - 76%

C- 70 - 72%

D+ 67 - 69%

D 63 - 66%

D- 60 - 62%