

WELCOME TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

Math 8

Mrs. Heidi Pittman Room 20

Communication

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***Email is the best way to communicate with me.

Course Overview

Welcome to Math 8! In Math 8, we use a variety of strategies to engage and challenge all. Students will investigate and solve problems individually and in pairs or groups, participate in class discussions, take notes, practice skills multiple ways, complete projects, and develop conceptual understanding with hands-on and interactive activities. Be prepared to work hard, struggle productively, share your creative thinking, learn from each other, and have fun!

Common Core State Standards

(CCSS) Math 8

Five critical areas of Math 8 include:

- Learning about and approximating rational numbers.
- Understanding of radical and integer exponents.
- Analyzing the connection between proportional relationships, lines and linear equations as well as solving single and pairs of linear equations.
- Defining, evaluating, and comparing functions and applying functions to model relationships between quantities.
- Applying congruence, similarity in geometric figures and the Pythagorean theorem to solve real-world problems.
- Investigate patterns of association using statistical thinking.

Homework/Classwork

Homework assignments should take approximately 20 minutes, four nights per week. Full credit is awarded for work done on time, with work clearly shown. Please contact me if homework is taking too long or too short, so that adjustments can be made. Students and parents have access to all assignments and grades via Google Classroom and School Loop. **Students and parents should each sign up ASAP for their own accounts in School Loop AND join our Google Classroom!**

Assessments

Assessment problems will be linked to specific learning target standards from the CCSS. All assessments will be graded on a 4-point rubric scale for each standard using a Standards Based Grading system. When a quiz is retaken, the old rubric score will be replaced with the more recent rubric score for each standard. Students are responsible for preparing for and scheduling retakes as needed to demonstrate mastery. Specific requirements need to be met before doing a retake assessment as seen on the "Test Re-take Form" in the classroom.

Mustang Musts ...

- **Be Safe**
- **Be Respectful**
- **Be Responsible**

Absences

Students are given the same amount of days to complete absent work as they have missed. **It is the responsibility of the student** to retrieve their missed work and complete it in the allotted time. The student is also required to turn in the previously due assignments upon the day they return.

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How is my grade calculated?

In Math 8 students will earn a cumulative letter grade each trimester, based on the following weighting: 90% assessments (tests, quizzes, & certain projects); 10% homework, warm-ups, other assignments, and math counts extra credit. Students may retake assessments after meeting specific requirements.

Goals and Growth Mindset

Scientists have studied the brain and have proven that we can learn and grow our brain by **attempting something new, working really hard at it, and making lots of mistakes along the way**. When we struggle with a new concept or skill, and when we make mistakes and learn from them, our brains grow more than at any other time. If we are not struggling, then we have stopped learning. In other words, easy is boring, and effort with struggle makes your brain grow. This year we will have many opportunities to grow and learn together. We will set goals for ourselves, and work hard to reach them. Be ready to accept challenges in math class, make mistakes, share your mistakes, and learn from them. Don't give up and always keep trying.

Online Textbook:

<https://bim.easyaccessmaterials.com/index.php?level=9.00>

Google Classroom Codes:

<https://classroom.google.com>

Period 2 – VTSR06

Period 5 – PD6EZF

Math Help and Math Enrichment

Students are expected and encouraged to ask questions if they are unsure about any concept. Homework and general math help (including math enrichment/challenge work) is available in many ways as described below:

- Email specific questions to the teacher.
- Use textbook/online resources such as IXL and Khan Academy.
- Collaborate with a “study buddy”.
- **Join and participate in the MMS Math Counts Club.**
- Make an appointment with the teacher for help or show up before or after school in Mrs. Pittman’s room.
- Attend math homework club after school. This is available Tuesdays and Thursdays for 45 minutes after school. The schedule and location may vary due to meetings and appointments.

4 – Point Rubric Grading Scale:

- 0 – No attempt made (no evidence)
- 1 – Beginning (weak knowledge)
- 2 – Approaching (partial knowledge)
- 3 – Mastery (meets expectations)
- 4 – Outstanding (exceeds expectations)

Rubric to Letter Grade Scale:

- 0 to under 1.5 = F
- 1.5 to under 2 = D- to D+
- 2 to under 2.5 = C- to C+
- 2.5 to under 3 = B- to B+
- 3.0 to 4.0 = A- to A+