



Welcome to Math!



GOALS FOR THIS YEAR

To create and enjoy our mathematical learning community

CLASS GOALS

Respect
Responsibility
Rich Dialogue
Reflection

INDIVIDUAL GOALS

Value Mathematics
Develop Self-confidence
Become a Problem Solver
Communicate Mathematically

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

❖ **We will respect ourselves.**

In order to accomplish this, we will strive to do our best in both individual and cooperative work. Next, we will come to class on time and will be prepared with all necessary books, supplies, and assignments. Finally, we will ask for help when we do not understand and provide help to others when others ask.

❖ **We will respect others.**

In order to accomplish this, we will enter and exit the room quietly, we will stay on task without disturbing or distracting others, we will not use 'put downs' or harass others, and we will respect other people's differences and opinions.

SUPPLY LIST

You are expected to bring the following supplies to math class each day. If any of these supplies should break or be misplaced throughout the year, you are responsible for replacing them. Occasionally, I will start class with a supply check so it is important that you have these materials with you. (Having them in your locker does not count!)

- Julian Student Planner
- 1½" Three-Ring Binder with 7 dividers
- Scientific Calculator (TI-30XIIS)
- Note-Taking Study Guide
- ID (should be visible and worn around your neck)
- Pencils (mechanical are preferred) with erasers
- Red pens for correcting homework
- Graph notebook
- Loose-leaf paper
- Positive attitude

Folders, spiral notebooks, and trapper keepers are not used in math class.

TEXTBOOKS

Students will be issued a textbook at the beginning of the school year. This textbook is for home use only. Should students need a textbook during the school day, they will have access to one from my class set. Also, students will be issued a note-taking study guide which must be brought to class daily. Students are encouraged to use both of these resources when completing their homework assignments.

702 McDougal Littell Math Course 2
703 McDougal Littell Algebra 1

GRADING SCALE

A student's overall grade will be based on total points earned divided by total points possible. Each trimester points are earned on tests, quizzes, and homework.

The following scale will be used to determine your grade:

- A** = 90-100%
- B** = 80-89%
- C** = 70-79%
- D** = 60-69%
- U** = 59% and below

HOMework COMPLETION POLICY

Math is not a spectator sport. You can watch football, soccer, volleyball or basketball on television, but to learn how to play, you must have a ball in your hand and actually pass, kick, set, or dribble. Mathematicians are much like athletes, as both groups require practice time in order to improve. You cannot master math by watching others do it. You must participate in class and practice each new concept many times to become proficient. Therefore, homework will be assigned daily. It is expected that assignments are completed on time and all answers include a written explanation of the solution and/or the mathematical steps needed to solve the problem. In other words, you are required to **SHOW ALL WORK!** Homework is due the next day unless otherwise posted. All assignments will be reviewed in class and opportunities to ask questions will be provided. You are responsible for correcting your own assignments. Assignments should be completed in pencil and all errors should be corrected in red. Do not erase your original work.

On a daily basis, homework assignments are posted on both the dry erase board in my classroom and on my online Classroom Calendar. Students are responsible for recording their assignments in their student planner. Furthermore, as lesson plans can change, students should not exclusively rely on the weekly syllabus, but should use the syllabus as a guide of what to expect in the upcoming week.

Each assignment is worth five points. Students will lose five points for each missed assignment. Absent students will earn back the full 5 points if the assignment is made up and turned into the late/absent work bin. If a student does not have the assignment with them *in the classroom* on the day that it is due, five points will be deducted, but three points will be given back if the student turns in the assignment by the following day. If an assignment is not at least 80% complete, one point will be deducted. Although I will check in late and absent assignments, I will not grade them. Students are responsible for obtaining the answer key from me to correct their assignment.

QUIZ & TEST REWRITES

Each chapter will usually consist of two or three quizzes (50 points each) and one test (100 points). Upcoming quizzes and tests will be posted on my weekly syllabus and announced in class.

Students are expected to get every quiz and test signed by their parent/guardian despite the grade that was earned. If students are dissatisfied with their quiz or test grade, they may improve it by completing rewrites. The rewrite sheets, which are located in my classroom for student pick up, are designed to make students identify their error and the correct method of solving the problem. Rewrites may be completed for any question that did not earn full credit. As long as the rewrite sheet is accurately completed, students can earn back up to half of the points lost. For example, if a question was worth two points and your child earned one point on the test, they can earn an additional one half point of the point they missed by accurately completing a rewrite.

1st Trimester: Students may complete rewrites for all chapter tests and quizzes.

2nd Trimester: Students may complete rewrites for only chapter tests.

3rd Trimester: Rewrites will not be available.

ABSENCES

If you are absent from class, it is ***your*** responsibility to obtain and complete class handouts and assignments. For your convenience, all assignments and handouts that were missed will be placed in the black bins on the side counter along the windows in my classroom. Upon returning from your absence, you should check all the bins from the days you were absent. As a general rule, for each day you are absent, you will receive the same number of days to make up the missed assignments. For example, if you are absent one day, you will receive one day to make up your assignments. All completed assignments should be placed in the late/absent work tray which is located next to the black bins. Please do not approach me during class with your absent work as class time is very valuable. After recording your absent work in my gradebook, it will be returned to you so that it can be filed in the appropriate section of your binder. Students who were absent on the day an assignment was corrected are expected to obtain the answer key from me to correct their assignment.

If you are absent on the day of a scheduled quiz or test, the following schedule will determine when you will make up the quiz or test:

- If you are absent one day, you will make up the test in class the day you return.
- If you are absent two or more days, you will make up the test in class the period after the next study session so that you will have the opportunity to seek assistance due to an extended absence. For example, if you miss Thursday and Friday, you can attend Monday's study session and must make up the test on Tuesday. If you miss Tuesday and Wednesday, you can attend the study session on Thursday morning and will make up the test on Thursday.
- If you miss the retest date, the test will be taken upon your return. There will be no exceptions. Students are given ample notice of upcoming quizzes and tests.

EXTRA HELP

A unique feature of McDougal Littell is that they have an online student support center called ClassZone with extra examples, problem solving help, test practice, and more. If students have access to the internet, they are encouraged to log on to ClassZone at www.classzone.com. At the home screen, click on *Middle School Math* if you are in 702 and *High School Math* if you are in 703. A list of textbooks will appear on the next page—select the appropriate textbook. From there you can navigate to various links.

As your teacher, I want you to succeed in mathematics! Therefore, I am available for extra help on the following days:

MONDAYS after school until 4:15 p.m.
THURSDAYS at 8:15 a.m.

These study sessions are open to both levels of students. Students can work on extra practice or may use the time to ask specific questions. These extra help sessions are not to be used to socialize with your friends. I am *not* available during lunch to provide assistance.

PROBLEM OF THE WEEK (EXTRA CREDIT)

On Monday of every week, I will post a math problem on the front bulletin board. If you wish to earn two extra credit points, you will have until Friday to turn in a complete, correct solution. This means that in addition to the correct answer, a mathematically sound explanation either using words, symbols, graphs, or pictures is needed for credit. This is the **ONLY** extra credit I provide. For weeks that have three or fewer school days, extra credit will not be available. A word to the wise...bank your points early because you never know when you may need some extra points!

CONTACT INFORMATION

I invite and encourage all parents and guardians to contact me if you have any questions or concerns throughout the year or to discuss your student's progress. The fastest way to reach me is via email. However, you may also leave a message on my voice mail. I will contact you as soon as I can, usually within forty-eight hours.

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