

Expectations for Eighth Grade Math

Keep this sheet in your notebook throughout the whole year.

1) **The Two Basic Middle School Expectations:** *Be Respectful! Be Responsible!*

2) **Mr. York's Expectations for Math Class**

- *Focus in class.*
- *Always do your best.*
- *Strive to improve.*

3) **Math Class Guidelines**

- a) *The purpose of math practice.* Above all, math practice is for learning! Try your best on every problem. Struggling and overcoming frustration are part of the process of doing math. Even if you don't get a problem correct, you will learn something by trying it, and then later seeing how it should be done. Do not fall into the trap of doing problems just to get them done.
- b) *Following up.* When you get a problem wrong, make sure you follow up on it –find your mistake, and learn how to do the problem correctly. This is very important!
- c) *Showing work.* For any problem that cannot be done in your head, you must show your work and circle your answer, so that it is readable and easy to follow. If there isn't enough room in the workbook to do the necessary work, then you should show your work on a separate sheet. This separate sheet should be kept in your notebook and clearly labeled with the sheet number and problem number.
- d) *Pencils.* Homework and in-class work should be done using a standard lead pencil. Homework corrections should be done directly on the homework sheet using a colored pencil.
- e) *Homework.* If all goes well, then students should get their “homework” done in school. Some students may need to study a little bit extra in preparation for a unit test.

4) **Tests**

- a) *Tests.* Tests will be given at the end of each unit and will be announced ahead of time in order to give the students time to prepare. The purpose of these tests is to monitor how well each student is learning the material, and to determine how the class as a whole is doing.
- b) *Grades.* Tests will be given a letter grade. My hope is that all students can put their grades into a healthy perspective.
- c) *Keeping up.* If a student is keeping up on a day-to-day basis then studying for a test will simply amount to a review of what has been covered. Falling behind in the material leads to cramming for the test, which usually results in the material not being learned adequately and poor test results.

5) **Test corrections**

Following each test, students are required to do test corrections. Test corrections will be graded. These are the requirements for how to do the test corrections:

- All corrections must be done on a separate sheet. Nothing should be written on the original test.
- For each problem that was not completely correct (with the exception of any challenge or extra credit problem), you must:
 - Write down the original question, show your work, and circle the answer.
 - Check your answers (e.g. with a classmate) to ensure that all of them are correct.
 - Write a *specific* reason stating why the problem was done incorrectly.
- At the top of the first page of the test corrections, the words "Parent Signature:" should appear, followed by the parent's signature. This indicates that the parent has seen the test and has ensured that the test corrections have been done correctly.
- Put your name on every sheet you hand in. Hand in your test with your corrections.

(Please turn over →)

6) Grades

- a) *How?* Grades for our math class will be based equally on two components: Tests and Class Participation (which includes focus, effort, attitude and behavior).
- b) *When?* I will calculate and hand out term grades at three times during the year: November parent conferences, February midyear reports, and end-of-year reports.

7) Parent/Teacher Communication

- a) *November conferences.* Parents are encouraged to schedule an appointment with Mr. York during November conferences.
- b) *Mr. York's book.* Mr. York's book, *A Middle School Math Curriculum*, includes detailed explanations of most of the topics that he covers in his middle school math classes. This book is useful for parents or tutors who are working with students in Mr. York's middle school math classes. Additionally, the *Teacher's Edition* of the workbook can be helpful, as it contains the answer key. All of this can be purchased at the school bookstore.
- c) *Parent concerns.* Parents who have questions or a concern regarding their child in math class are encouraged to email Mr. York (jamiy@smwaldorf.org).

Student and parent should sign below to acknowledge that they have read, and that they agree to, all of the above. It should be shown to Mr. York during the next math class, and then kept in the student's notebook. Parents who do not agree to any one of the above terms should talk with Mr. York before signing it.

Student signature: _____

Parent signature: _____

Comments, if any, for Mr. York: