

August, 2017

Welcome to sixth grade math! You have just entered your first year of Pre-Algebra. Next year will be the second year of Pre-Algebra and then you'll jump into either Algebra or Math 8 in 8th grade. I will do my best to make the work this year as fun as possible. Let me give you the plan for the next nine months.

Textbook

We use an online textbook for math called *CPM Core Connections, Course 1*. Students will use a hard copy of the textbook when they are in school. However, when students need to access the text at home or on the road, they will use their ipad or any another device. Students will be able to interact with the text – it is imbedded with homework help and select answers. Resource pages and worksheets will always be available online and can be downloaded at home. You will be learning about all of the possibilities as we progress through the year.

Sixth grade students will receive their ipads at the end of the first week of school. We will practice using the ipads to access the online textbook during the second week of school. Each student will have a unique user name, and password for ebook access. We'll experiment with the textbook during class to make sure that everyone is comfortable with how it works.

Classwork

We will be doing some kind of classwork almost every day in math class. Some days we will work all together, others days students will work in groups, and occasionally students will work completely on their own. I'm hoping that every day will be challenging, a little different, and lots of fun. Often the classwork will roll into the first few problems of that night's homework. Other times the classwork will be independent of the homework. We will also have one or two projects over the course of the year. Those projects will be graded based on a rubric that will be discussed ahead of time in class.

Homework

I will assign math homework every school night (with only a few exceptions) and over weekends. My expectation is that math homework will take a student anywhere from fifteen to thirty minutes to complete each night. We will correct the homework the following day in class and I will check it to be sure that students have shown the appropriate level of detail and have done what was asked. I will expect the homework to be done neatly in pencil. There also should be a proper heading in the top right corner of the paper and the assignment number and details written in the top left. Completeness and neatness will be part of the homework grade. Unexcused late homework will receive half credit. If an assignment is more than two weeks late, it will be an automatic zero.

The daily homework assignments and all other important class information will be posted on my homework website. I will usually post the day's assignment each day after school. Do not do the homework ahead of time because I use the class time to teach the concepts necessary for the homework and to explain my expectations. My homework website address is <http://rgeissler.weebly.com>. You can also link to my website by accessing the Mill Valley Middle School website and using the Teacher Websites pull down menu.

Tests and Quizzes

There will be many tests and quizzes over the course of the year. Most chapters will include one or two quizzes and an end of chapter test. If a student receives a score of 74% or less on a test, the student will be able to retake a new version of the test at an agreed upon time. The retake score will replace the original test score but the highest possible grade for the retake is a 74%.

Grades

A student's overall math grade is made up of two weighted components. Homework completion makes up 40% of the grade. Tests and Quizzes make up the other 60%. I will give several extra credit problems each trimester and those will be included in the Test/Quiz part of the grade.

Supply list

Below is a list of necessary classroom supplies. It would be great if you could bring them for the first day of school. However, if it takes you several days to get them all, that's fine too.

3 Ring Binder – I am a fan of a separate small binder to be used exclusively for math. I find 1 ½” work best.

Seven Dividers - You will need seven sections in your math binder:
1) New Homework Log; 2) New Homework; 3) Old Homework Logs; 4) Old Homework; 5) Class Notes; 6) Tests & Quizzes, and 7) Extra Graph paper.

Graph Paper – We will do all of our homework assignments on graph paper. Please have an ample supply. It is much easier if the graph paper is in a packet of loose individual sheets instead of in tablet form. Any size grid will be fine.

Pencils – You will need an endless supply of pencils or a mechanical pencil and extra lead. You cannot do your homework in colored pencil, pen or erasable pen. An eraser also comes in handy when erasing a large area.

Markers, Pens, Colored Pencils – You will need a small supply of pens and/or markers to correct the homework and to do other things (like graphs) requiring more than one color.

Inexpensive Scientific Calculator – I have a small supply of calculators in class, however, you will be a much happier math student if you have one of your own. Make sure that it is scientific so that it will calculate answers using the correct order of operations. Be sure that the calculator has an exponent and square root key. Don't spend a lot of money on this. Texas Instruments is probably the most popular brand. Make sure you write your name on the back of the calculator in permanent marker.

Silent Reading Book – You will always need a silent reading book on test days. They also come in handy on the rare occasion when you finish your homework in class.

If you have trouble acquiring any of these materials, please either speak to me after class, have your parents call me at **389-7711 x2719**, or e-mail me at rgeissler@mvschools.org. I should be able to get you some help.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I can't wait to get to know you! I'm looking forward to a great year.

Robyn Geissler