

8th grade

# MATHEMATICS

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**My goals for this class are that you:**

Begin to **think critically** and **mathematically** and continue on a path that leads you to become a **mathematically-literate** adult.

Are in a **safe** and **engaging** learning environment so you can have a positive experience with math.

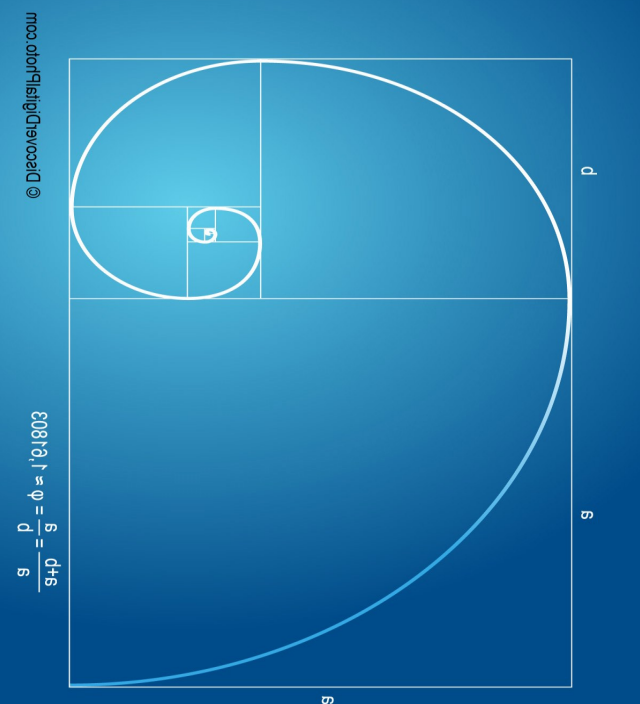
Learn the **skills** and gain the **knowledge** that you need to succeed in this course and on your end-of-course exam.

**Everything that I (and you) do for this class will work towards accomplishing these three goals. To achieve these goals I need your cooperation. I expect us to:**

Be **prepared** for class. This means being in your seat with a pencil or pen, calculator, text, notebook, and a positive attitude when the bell rings.

Act **respectfully** towards your peers and towards me. Everyone should feel that they are safe and have a voice. Be nice!

**Participate!** We will be doing a lot of hard thinking in our class, I expect you to put in effort, engage in learning, and not be afraid to be wrong. Making mistakes is how we learn!



# Class Routine

- Every day you will need to have your journal, a writing utensil and a productive attitude. We start promptly at the beginning of class.
- Usually each day will start with a 5-10 minute warm-up or quick quiz. Warm-up topics can include: review, mental math, algebraic thinking, reflective writing, brain-stretchers, or short discussions.
- After our warm-up we will engage in the day's activity. Activities could include large projects, worksheets, small-group or whole-class discussions, investigations, reflections, and more!
- I will let you know when we have one minute left before class ends so that you have time to gather your things, clean up your materials and get ready to leave.

## Materials:

You will need your **notebook, a graphing calculator, and something to write with.** If you need to rent a graphing calculator for the quarter, I need your parent to sign a rental agreement. If you are missing an item (pencil, calculator), try to borrow from a friend, if that doesn't work I will loan one to you for collateral (something you need, like a shoe or a phone). **Speaking of phones, they are not to be used in class.** Listening to music, in my experience, makes one lose focus. However, if we follow expectations regularly and show that we have a productive, positive learning environment, this rule could be bent.

“Pure mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas.”

Albert Einstein

## Seating assignments

We will change between small groups of two or three and individual seating arrangements, depending on the type of activity. However, if you have a concern about where you are sitting, come speak to me.

## Extra help

I will be available to help or just chat during math time or after school (2:15) every day except Thursday.



## Hall pass procedures

Use the restroom before or after class, our time is valuable. If you do need to leave the class for some reason, you must get my ok first, sign in/out on the sign-in sheet, and then take the hall pass with you.



## Remember that I care

Always remember that **I care.** I have high expectations of you and you can have high expectations of me. I will do my best to ensure that you are learning, safe, and successful in my class. If you put in the effort, I will too.

# Grading

## Participation – 15%

I keep a log of who has participates in discussions and who volunteers during our 5-10 minute intro each day. A large portion of this grade will be made up of your notebook check-ins, more about this in class. I will talk to you if I think you could be participating more, and what you need to do to get the full points for this category.

## Homework – 20%

We will have 2 homework assignments per week, they are due on Tuesdays and Fridays. Homework assignments are usually worth 10 points. I give 7 points for completion and reserve 3 points to grade one problem or aspect of the homework. I do this because I don't have enough time to critically grade the whole homework, but I want to give each of you productive feedback. I will not tell you ahead of time which one will be graded, so be sure to do them all well!

## Exams – 30%

There will be an exam taken in class at the end of each unit. Exams will mostly be short answer and I will provide a detailed study guide for each one.

## Projects and labs – 20%

Sometimes we will head to the computer lab or outside to do short labs. Usually these can be completed in class but sometimes they will take the place of homework for the week. Projects include things like creating a poster, giving a presentation, crafting a piece of "art," and writing a research paper.

## Quick quizzes – 10%

Quizzes, like homework, are designed to help me and you know what more you need to work on to master the concepts in the unit. These are a low percentage of your grade because their main importance is to help me direct my teaching and for you to focus your learning.

## Final concept map project – 5%

At the end of the semester you will be asked to create a fairly open-ended final concept map that will show how all of the things that you have learned connect to each other. There will be more specific details about this assignment as the quarter progresses.

**Work requirements:** Participation in class activities and assignments is the **most important** requirement for my class as that is where most of the actual learning takes place. There should not be an overwhelming amount of homework, and more important than getting the right answers, I ask that you try hard and really think about the problems.

**Late/Absent work:** Work will be accepted late, without acceptable excuse (absent, family emergency), at a 10% loss per day up to a 60% penalty. This means even if you forgot to turn something in months ago (as long as it is within the grading period), you could still turn it in for 40% of the original score. Missed tests and quizzes can be made up, you just have to talk to me so we can arrange a good time.

A

90%

B

80%

C

70%

D

60%

F