

Dear Middle School Math Students,

Now that the second semester has begun, this is a good opportunity to review the expectations so you can benefit the most from each course, and be well-prepared for subsequent courses.

Keep a dedicated math notebook. Thorough notes should be copied during class, including examples. Homework should be done in the same notebook immediately following the notes so you can reference them and have additional problems from which to study later. It is difficult to review when notes/homework are missing because they are in another notebook or on loose paper that gets misplaced. Problems should be copied when reasonable and a complete solution as necessary should follow. You should also do the problems using the methods taught in class to reinforce them. Specific methods are taught in class because it will be easier to build on them as we move into more complex material. Credit is given for completion of notes and homework. Students must keep the stamp sheet and turn it in on test day in order to receive credit for the chapter's work.

IXL assignments count as 25% of your quarter grade. The assignments, both required and extra credit, are given on the homework sheet. All of the assignments must be completed by the class time during which the test is taken. The score you earn on the required assignments is recorded in the gradebook. There is no minimum score, however the higher the score the better. In order to get the bonus points from the extra credit assignments, a score of 100% is required. If you have restricted computer access, iPads are available for use during math homework club. You may use any resource in order to complete your assignments. You may have assistance from anyone you choose, review material using a variety of resources including notes, the textbook, the internet, and the teacher. Start early so you can get help as needed. The important thing to remember is that the only way to benefit from doing IXL is to attempt it.

Practice tests are given for each chapter that closely model the actual test. Students have the opportunity to see the length of the test, how many problems of certain types will be on the test and can see the amount of work that is expected to be shown in order to maximize scores. Students are typically given class time to work on the practice tests in order to ask questions. Practice tests are to be turned in for a homework grade.

Chapter assessments are returned and students may do test corrections in order to recover missed points. Students should redo any problem where points were deducted, and check to ensure solutions are correct in order to recover the maximum number of points. Students may also complete extra credit IXL assignments. $\frac{1}{4}$ point is awarded for each IXL module on which a student earned 100%. Students need to show complete mastery in order to be awarded bonus points on the corresponding test. While students may turn in test corrections until the end of the

quarter, it is preferred that corrections are completed as the tests are returned while the concepts are fresh and to prevent incomplete work from accumulating until the end of the term.

Come to the math homework club after school. A schedule is posted on the math class website and on the whiteboard in the classroom. The schedule is also posted on the school website, however if there are changes with short notice the class website will reflect the most current changes. Students have come to homework club to work on homework, copy notes, go over current topics or review older material. Many students use the time to work on IXL and get assistance with modules.

Know that the curriculum, as challenging as it may seem at times, is specifically designed to prepare you for the rigors of high school level math. As with anything worthwhile, time, dedication, and consistent effort are required for success. Please take advantage of my experience and what the opportunities available to help you reach your potential.

God bless,

Patricia Halgas
Middle School Math