

MATH 7

2011/2012

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GENERAL OUTLINE- This course is grade level math for 7th graders. Many of the students enrolled in this class are not currently working at grade level; my intention is to give every student the opportunity to advance at least one grade level. Every student should already know multiplication facts to 9X9 (only some do at present). Major topics will include fractions, use of variables, proportions, signed numbers (positive & negative arithmetic), statistics, and the Pythagorean Theorem. Students will be placed in Math 8 next year, which PPS has declared will include the introductory half-year of Algebra 1-2.

TAG DISCLOSURE- As is the case with all students, math instruction will be delivered to each student based on appropriate rate and level. If you feel the Math 7 level is too low let me know right away. In no case will I approve an individual rate slower than the class, however if a TAG identified student wishes to do independent study at an accelerated rate that can be arranged. Please contact me by email (dingamells@pps.net).

GRADES- Grades will be the traditional 90% A, 80% B, and so on, weighted 60% for assignments (including a small score for class participation). Tests will count for 40%. Retests may be available, but only for students who keep their homework completion above 95%.

ATTENDANCE- It is critical that students be present every day if at all possible. Much of math is sequential and any days missed become major impediments to mastering concepts. Individuals normally miss several days each year for rehearsals, field trips, and illness; please do not plan unnecessary additional absences.

ASSIGNMENTS/ HOMEWORK- Homework will be assigned nearly every day, and I will try to distribute an assignment list at the beginning of any major unit. Students need to turn their assignments in on time; I will not accept late work without a written excuse.

SUPPLIES- There are a couple of items necessary for math in addition to general supplies you would need for any class. One is a calculator. For this course any basic, inexpensive calculator will suffice as long as it has square root. Another item is grid paper. Centimeter is preferable but sometimes is hard to find. Quarter inch will work also.

ADDITIONAL HELP- I strongly suggest that students find homework study partners; this is something that successful college students do routinely. I am usually available any day before school and Tuesday or Thursday until 3:30 PM. I will also take phone calls at home until 9:00 PM. My home phone number is 503-284-9076.