Welcome to 8th Grade Math. I believe that all students can learn mathematics. Keep in mind that learning math is not a spectator sport; you must participate to stay in the game.

Course Description

This course is Pre-Algebra/Pre-Geometry based and gears the students for Algebra I and Geometry in the next couple of years. Topics covered include, (but are not limited to), algebraic equations and inequalities, proportions, exponents, geometry, measurement, data analysis, and statistics. I will be using various strategies to engage students in problem solving and reasoning.

Required Material

You are expected to bring your charged iPad to class every day. You will be able access your textbook and any online materials through your iPad. There will also be physical copies of textbooks in the classroom if that is preferred.

A notebook, pencils, paper, and graphing paper are required for this class. A calculator is recommended, but not required as there will be calculators available in the classroom.

Major Assignments and Assessments

Summative assessments will be given at the end of each unit. You can expect to have multiple opportunities before a test to practice your skills. This could include quizzes, exit tickets, small skills checks, practice problems, group projects, presentations etc. Reassessments will be allowed on unit tests. Students will need to make corrections to any mistakes made on the original test and complete a reflection form, before I will allow them to reassess. If I feel it is needed, I may also have students complete an additional review assignment before reassessing. Please note that assessments are individual assignments and students must remain quiet, even after they have finished.
Grading Policy

Scores for assessments, projects, and assignments will be posted on Infinite Campus. Due to the high number of students and the time/attention required for grading it may take some time to see grades posted. However, I tend to post grades within a week of the due date, please be patient.

Scoring and reporting will be standards based. I will list the state standard that the student is being assessed on in the title of the assessment/assignment. Assessments and assignments will be graded on a 1-4 scale. Remember a 3 is great – meeting grade level expectations consistently.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.0</td>
<td><strong>Exceeds Grade Level Standards:</strong> Demonstrates understanding beyond grade level standards consistently and independently.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.0</td>
<td><strong>Meets Grade Level Standards:</strong> Demonstrates understanding of grade level standards consistently and independently.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.0</td>
<td><strong>Partially Meets Grade Level Standards:</strong> Demonstrates partial understanding of grade level standards with or without support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td><strong>Does Not Meet Grade Level Standards:</strong> Demonstrates minimal (or no) understanding and does not meet grade level standards, even with support.</td>
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Most practice assignments (ex: problems 1-10 out of the textbook) will not be graded. Students may receive a work-habits score for practice assignments, but will not receive a standards grade. Standards grades will be reserved for skills checks, exit tickets, quizzes, projects, and unit assessments. This is because I believe practice should be treated as practice. Just as an athlete is not expected to be perfect when practicing a new skill, I do not expect students to be perfect when practicing a new math skill. Students are expected to complete the practice to the best of their ability in order to improve their skills.

Classroom Rules of Conduct

1. Be respectful, be responsible, be safe.
2. Bring required materials every day. Be organized and prepared for class.
3. Use polite speech and body language.
4. All school rules in the BRMS handbook apply at all times.

Use of Electronics

All unauthorized electronics (cellphones, iPods, personal tablets, etc.) should not be brought in the classroom at any time. Students will have use of their school-issued iPad as needed. We will do a lot of work using the iPads, so students are expected to have a charged iPad in class every day. Misuse of your iPad will result in confiscation of the iPad for the remainder of class and any work will be provided on a paper copy. Students will not have earbuds or headphones at any time, unless authorized by me. I will never authorize the use of earbuds or headphones during an assessment. Refusal to follow this policy will result in a referral.
Career Options with this Field of Study

One of the benefits of studying mathematics is the variety of career paths it provides. Some popular career choices include...

- **Actuarial Science**: takes mathematics and statistics and applies them to finance and insurance
- **Computer Science**: the study of the theoretical foundations of information and computation and their implementation and application in computer systems
- **Operations Research**: uses mathematical methods to arrive at optimal decisions to problems in maximizing or minimizing things like costs or profits.
- **Biomathematics**: models natural and biological processes using mathematical techniques and tools
- **Finance**: studies and addresses the ways in which individuals, businesses, and organizations raise, allocate, and use monetary resources over time, considering the risks entailed in their projects.
- **Cryptography**: the practice and study of hiding information. Cryptography applications include the security of ATM cards and computer passwords.

Resources

- **Big Ideas Login** – [https://bigideasmath.com](https://bigideasmath.com)
- **Big Ideas easy access materials** - [https://bim.easyaccessmaterials.com/index.php?location_user=cchs](https://bim.easyaccessmaterials.com/index.php?location_user=cchs)
- **Khan Academy** - [https://www.khanacademy.org/](https://www.khanacademy.org/)
- **Info on standards-based instruction and grading** - [https://www.thompsonschools.org/Page/16849](https://www.thompsonschools.org/Page/16849)