Welcome to 8th Grade Math! I believe every student can be successful in math with practice and a willingness to learn. This school year we will be taking on a new curriculum that integrates technology which will allow students to reach a new level of engagement. I am excited to get to know each student to make math interesting and fun for everyone!

Course Description

This course prepares students for Algebra I and Geometry. Some topics covered are algebraic equations and inequalities, proportions, exponents, geometry, measurement, data analysis, and statistics. I will be using various teaching strategies to engage students in problem solving and reasoning. Students will complete work on iPads and/paper to ensure understanding.

Required Material

In this class you will need to bring at least one pencil, a composition notebook, paper, and graph paper. A calculator is recommended, but there will be calculators available in the classroom. Each student expected to bring their charged iPad to class every day. Students will be able to access their textbook and any online materials through their iPad. There will also be physical copies of textbooks in the classroom if that is preferred.
**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, skill checks, practice problems, group projects, presentations etc. Reassessments will be allowed on all unit tests. Students will need to make corrections to any mistakes made on the original test and complete a reflection sheet to address areas of improvement. 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. It will take time to grade and provide constructive feedback for each student, so please allow up to a week for me to get the grades posted.

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>Grade</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>
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<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 based grade. Standards based 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. Students are expected to complete the practice to the best of their ability in order to build upon and 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, earbuds, etc.) should not be brought in the classroom at any time. Students will have use of their school-issued iPad as needed. 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 (new curriculum) – https://bigideasmath.com
- Big Ideas easy access materials - https://bim.easyaccessmaterials.com/index.php?location_user=cchs
- Khan Academy - https://www.khanacademy.org/
- Info on standards-based instruction and grading - https://www.thompsonschools.org/Page/16849
- 8th grade common core state standards - http://www.corestandards.org/Math/Content/8/introduction/