

Course Expectations
Mrs. Linda Mazurkiewicz
linda_mazurkiewicz@iicsn.org
Mathematics 8 Algebra (one year)
Innovations International Charter School of Nevada
2009-2010

I. Course Scope and Goals

A. Course Scope:

This course is designed to bridge arithmetic and algebra for the seventh grade student. Emphasis is on using multiple strategies for solving problems, including patterns and algebraic relationships. Students will also develop estimation skills and fluency in computation. Problem solving, connections, reasoning, and communication will be integrated with the mathematical content. The use of technology, manipulatives, and other visual tools will be incorporated into the instructional design.

B. Course Goals:

1. To develop the ability to reason and communicate mathematically in order to apply learned concepts to new problem-solving situations.
2. To increase the understanding of mathematical connections through a variety of strategies and problem-solving situations.
3. To increase and develop greater efficiency and accuracy in using estimation and computational skills in the rational number system.
4. To reinforce and extend the concepts of number sense, number relationships, and estimation.
5. To develop formal and informal algebraic techniques to analyze, extend, and create multiple representations of patterns and mathematical relationships.
6. To extend and apply the concepts of measurement and geometry to a variety of practical problems.
7. To solve problems using a variety of mathematical tools including calculators, computer software, manipulatives, and measuring devices.
8. To explore a variety of data collection and organizational models to solve problems by using statistical procedures.
9. To instill confidence in students' mathematical ability so that they elect to continue their mathematical development through more challenging courses.

II. Evaluation

A. Criteria for arriving at student grades:

1. Tests and Projects will constitute 60% of the quarter grade.
2. Class work will constitute 20% of the grade
3. Homework will constitute 20% of the grade

B. Explanation of Student Grades: (I do not round grades. A 79.9 is a C+)

A+ = 97 - 100%	B+ = 87 - 89%	C+ = 77 - 79%
A = 93 - 96%	B = 83 - 86%	C = 73 - 76%
A- = 90 - 92%	B- = 80 - 82%	C- = 70 - 72%

D+ = 67 - 69%	F = 0 - 59%
D = 63 - 66%	
D- = 60 - 62%	

C. Grade reports will be issued as follows:

1. Grades will be uploaded weekly to the schools grade website.
 - a. Please check your child's grades weekly, so that there are no surprises when unsatisfactory progress reports come home.
2. Unsatisfactory progress reports will be given four times a year, midway through each nine week reporting period.
 - a. Please do not request your child's missing work at this time. Students are not permitted to turn in any assignments more than two days late.
 - b. Students do have plenty of time after unsatisfactory progress reports go home to improve their grades.
3. Quarter grades will be given on a report card four times a year, at the end of each nine week reporting period.
4. Semester grades will be given twice during the year, at eighteen week intervals. Semester grades will be a combination of a semester exam grade and grades for the two quarters.

III. Course Activities

A. Tests:

The teacher will administer tests throughout the course of study to determine the individual student's development as well as the effectiveness of the teaching strategies utilized.

1. Quizzes will be administered at the end of each chapter.
2. Semester exams will be given at the end of each semester and will count as 20% of the semester grade. These exams cover everything studied in class.

B. Assignments:

Students will be given homework assignments Monday through Friday. Work must be completed in PENCIL and all work must be shown to receive full credit. All assignments must include the proper heading. These assignments will directly relate to the material that has been presented and discussed in class. Students will usually be given time to begin these assignments and receive individualized assistance in class. Students are encouraged to keep returned assignments for study aides on tests and semester exams.

All homework assignments are due the following day unless otherwise stated by the teacher. If a student is absent on the day an assignment is due, the completed assignment is due the day the student returns to school. If a student does not turn in an assignment on the day it is due, he/she will be penalized 50% for late work. No work will be accepted more than two days from the due date.

**If a student has an IEP, SIP, or 504 allowing for extra time per agreement between student and teacher, the student must meet with the teacher to discuss any extra time allowed for assignment completion before the due date.*

C. Daily Class:

- Students turn in previous days homework in the basket by the door
- When students enter the classroom each day, there will be a short assignment for them to complete within the first five minutes of class. At the end of that time assignments will be collected.
 - If a student is late for class, they will receive a zero on this work. There is no make-up for being late to class.
- Students will then take out notebooks and begin taking notes for the days lesson.

- Students will then complete an in class assignment of the material covered. This will be completed whole group. The students will bring this home to assist them with completing homework.
- If time permits, students will begin working on homework.

D. Makeup Work:

After any absence, students must check with the teacher to receive the work for the day that they were absent. Students will also need to check with a peer to borrow their notes to update their own notebooks. All makeup work is due 3 days after a student returns to school. If a student has an absence in excess of 3 days, the student must talk to the teacher to make arrangements for additional time to make up assignments.

If the student is absent on the day of a test, the student will have 3 days to make up the test. All tests must be made up before or after school. It is the student's responsibility to let the teacher know on which day they will be making up the quiz or test.

E. Extra credit:

Extra credit for this course is not given. Students are, however, allowed to redo all class and homework assignments that they score less than 70% on. The paper is then re-graded and the two scores averaged for the student's new score. Any work the student chooses to redo must be returned within 1 week of my returning it to them.

IV. Class Rules and Behavioral Expectations

A. Specific Classroom Rules:

1. Raise your hand to speak or for permission to leave your table.
2. Come to class on time, prepared, and ready to learn. (BRING YOUR OWN PENCIL AND PAPER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!)
3. Show respect to others and the learning environment.
4. All work must be completed in pencil.
5. All assignments are due when the teacher calls for them.
6. Work for other classes may not be completed in math class and may be confiscated by the teacher.
7. Keep returned assignments and tests throughout the semester.
8. DO NOT bring ANY electronic devices to campus; they will be confiscated per IICSN policy.
9. Eating, drinking, and/or chewing gum are NOT allowed in class.
10. I will not give passes for students to use the restroom during my class. Students have a five minute passing period between each class and this is to be used to go to the restrooms or get a drink.

B. Academic Dishonesty

If students are found guilty of academic dishonesty (cheating/plagiarizing), the teacher shall collect the assignment, mark a zero for the work and notify the parent and the school administration of the consequence. A second offense of cheating or continued academic dishonesty will result in a notice of required parent conference at which time future consequences will be discussed.

V. Materials

1. Students will be using Glencoe McGraw-Hill Algebra in class. The students will have an older version to keep at home as reference for working on homework. If the student needs to see the specific lesson that we reviewed in class, they will find a link for the textbook on my website.

2. The following materials will be needed each day in class:
- ⊗ A notebook for taking notes. These notebooks may be used for chapter tests.
 - ⊗ Completed homework
 - ⊗ Calculator (basic one, not a graphing calculator)
 - ⊗ Paper and pencils (I will not supply students with paper and pencils for class. It is their responsibility to come to school each day prepared to learn.)

VI. Heading

On worksheets, you are to fill in the information on the appropriate line. When handing in work completed on notebook paper, you must have the proper heading in the top right hand corner of your paper (See example below). Failure to include the proper heading, will result in the loss of 5% points from your grade. Papers with no name will be posted in the classroom for 1 week and then will be disposed of.

THIS IS YOUR PIECE OF PAPER

	Jane Doe August 24, 2009 7A
Lesson 2.1	

VII. Class Work and Homework Completion

Class work and Homework will be a worksheet. Students are to complete the work for each problem on a separate sheet of paper and then write their final answer on the worksheet. They must turn in both the worksheet and their paper showing the work. **Failure to show how you solved a particular problem will result in your grade being reduced by 50%.**

VIII. Class Website

You will find my website by following the steps below:

1. Go to iicsn.org
2. Click on Staff
3. Click on 7th and 8th grade
4. Click on Mrs. Mazurkiewicz

From this page, you will be able to access your child's grade, previous and current weeks homework, a copy of this syllabus, class notes (posted at the end of each week), and a link to email me.

Please sign this last page after reading and discussing the expectations for the class.

My signature below verifies that my child and I have read and discussed these expectations for 8th grade math. We understand that parent participation is essential in the education process, and that the teacher, student, and parent working together can create the optimal learning situation.

Print Student Name (First and Last):

Period:

Student Signature:

Date:

Print Parent/Guardian Name:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date:

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

Work Phone:

Best time to contact:

Email address:
