

Denver Christian Middle School

7th Grade Math Syllabus

Dear 7th Grade Math Class,

Welcome! I'm so excited to begin this new school year with you. In our math class, we won't just be solving problems — we'll be learning to *think critically*, work as a *team*, and grow comfortable with *taking risks* and *making mistakes* along the way. Mistakes are actually a powerful part of learning, and asking *clarifying questions* will always be encouraged here — it shows you're thinking deeply. Most importantly, I hope you'll begin to see math not just as numbers and formulas, but as a way to see *God's fingerprints in the universe* — in the patterns, order, and beauty all around us. I can't wait to explore this journey with you!

Quick Course Overview:

- Class Periods 1st and 2nd
- Teacher's Name: Melana McCormick
- Room Number 325
- Teacher Contact Information:
 - Email: mmccormick@denverchristian.org (best way to reach me)

Deep Hope: My deep hope for this class is that students will work together to learn and understand the challenging concepts of mathematics together while deepening their relationship with the Creator. Sometimes it seems that math and God do not go together when in reality they do! Math is discovering the fingerprints of God in the fabric of the universe. Through our year in mathematics we will have some struggles and victories, but we will not have defeat. I want students to be able to make mistakes and have a growth mindset in order to work through the challenges that will arise.

Course Description: In 7th grade math, students will deepen their understanding of number operations, fractions, decimals, ratios, proportions, and percentages. They will explore expressions, equations, inequalities, and begin working with integers and basic geometry concepts. Students will develop problem-solving skills, learn to think critically, and apply mathematical reasoning to real-world situations. Emphasis will be placed on collaboration, asking questions, and embracing mistakes as part of the learning process.

Course Schedule:

1. Real Number Systems
2. Proportional Relationships
3. Percent Problems

4. Equivalent Expressions
5. Equations and Inequalities
6. Using Sampling to Draw Inferences
7. Probability
8. Geometry

Materials: The Following Materials are needed each day

- Math work book
- Pencil
- Colored pen
- Calculator
- A math folder to keep track of notes and worksheets
- Your device
- Scratch paper or notebook

Canvas:

- The agenda and assignments will be posted on Canvas by the end of the school day
- **Students are expected to look at the agenda to see what they missed when they are absent**
- If you need an extra copy of an assignment, go to the assignments page on Canvas → scroll down to find the name of the missing assignment → a PDF will be linked in the assignment description that can be printed out or problems can be written on a separate sheet of paper
- There is no excuse for not knowing a homework assignment because it is posted each day on Canvas if you forget what was assigned

Grading/ Homework Policy

- Students will typically have homework every night. There will be some nights when students will not have homework.
- Homework will generally be graded for effort, work shown, and completion with an occasional spot check for correctness. This helps to ensure accountability. Homework is one of the best ways to learn and practice skills
- In general, homework assignments are worth around 5-10 points (depending on homework size), quizzes are worth 50, tests are worth 100, and projects are somewhere around 25-30 points
- This math class follows in accordance with the DC Middle School :
 - Students may submit late work for up to one week after the original due date during the first quarter only. Each day an assignment is late, 10% will be deducted from its potential score. Assignments will not be accepted more than one week late.
 - Starting in Quarter 2, late work will not be accepted.

- Exceptions will be made for excused absences or illness; in those cases, students should connect with their teacher to create a plan
- Following the directions for turning in late work is essential!
 - *If the assignment is turned in online, **students must email me to notify me**
 - *If the assignment is in the workbook, it should be ripped out, name and date should be written clearly on the top, and then it should be turned into the late work bin on Ms. McCormick's desk
 - *If the assignment is a worksheet, make sure the name and date are clearly written on the top of it and that it is turned into the bin on Ms. McCormick's desk

Classroom Rules and Expectations

- First and foremost I expect students to live out Denver Christian's habits of learning and habits of living (throughlines)
 - Habits of learning: We will be curious thinkers, courageous designers, gracious communicators, and joy-filled collaborators
 - Habits of living: We will be God worshipers, image reflectors, community builders, servant leaders, resource stewards, critical thinkers, shalom restorers, beauty creators, and truth discerners
- I also expect students to:
 - **Golden Rule:** Treat peers, teachers, and classroom helpers with the same respect and kindness you would want to be treated with!
 - **Take Responsibility for Your Own Actions:**
 - **Be Proactive About Your Own Learning:**
 - **Make Mistakes:** It is 100% okay to make mistakes; we are all human and will not always get things right. That is okay; make mistakes and learn from them! How you react to a mistake will either add to or take away from your learning. I will make mistakes on the board, so please correct me! The best way to learn is to work together and help one another see the mistakes that we have not yet noticed.
 - **Be Willing to Work With One Another:** Working together can add much to the learning environment. Sometimes, students will be asked to do group work or group projects. Being willing to work together is important because it can greatly increase your knowledge and collaboration skills.

Absent Policy:

If you are absent, it is *your responsibility* to catch up on what you missed. Follow these three steps to stay on track:

1. **Check Canvas** for any assignments, announcements, or materials you missed.
2. **Check the assignments bin** in the classroom for any handouts or worksheets from the day(s) you were gone.
3. **Ask a classmate** to copy their notes so you have everything we covered.

Once you've completed all three steps, you are welcome to come to **Ms. McCormick** with any questions you still have. I'm happy to help—but make sure you've done your part first!