



Honors 8th Grade Math III

Mrs. Gail Brenner

Email: gbrenner@sylvaniaschools.org

School Phone: 419-824-8680 ext. 4358

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year at Timberstone Junior High. As a “seasoned” educator, I am energized by the challenges of remote learning and excited to be serving as your mathematics teacher. By learning about and practicing growth mindsets, I will develop problem solving skills during the exploration of real world situations that connect to Ohio’s State Standards. Whether we are working under the *red, yellow, or green plan*, we will communicate throughout the school year on our new Learning Management System of Schoology; a weekly post may include daily work such as instructional videos, practice problems, discussion boards, homework, answer keys, and assessments; links will provide access to online Connected Mathematics books, the IXL program, Ohio’s State Standards and our math Google Meets; a message icon will allow us to send and receive emails without switching to Gmail accounts; and both students and parents will have accounts that organize all current classes. With my growth mindset fully engaged, I am looking forward to sharing and continuing to learn along with you!

Remote Learning Expectations for Students

1. Log into Schoology at scheduled bell time on each school day. [See daily schedule.](#)
2. Watch the live stream or recorded video of instruction and/or do any assigned work through Schoology.
3. **Read** directions carefully; ask for clarification if needed.
4. Complete all assignments in a timely manner; track homework through the Schoology calendar or record in a personal planner.
5. Be responsible for your learning: practice a growth mindset; ask & answer questions; “*try, try again*”; communicate any math concerns you may have through email, in a Google Meet, or during office hours.

Expectations for Students during Google Meets

1. Remove distractions (phones, TVs, food, etc.).
2. Be ready: sit upright with a charged and/or plugged in Chromebook, paper, sharpened pencil, red pen, calculator & completed assignment within reach.
3. Use a Chromebook (not a phone); upon joining, mute your microphone but leave the camera on you whenever possible.
4. Initiate participation by using the hand raising icon or posing a question in the chat; we will call on you to unmute your microphone or address the chat.
5. Keep your chat comments and your gestures appropriately math related.
6. Practice patience and kindness.

Keys to Success for Remote Learning

Below are tips others have found helpful:

- Sleep regular hours each night.
- Wake at the same time each morning and treat it like a “*green plan*” school day.
- Get dressed every morning.
- Eat a healthy breakfast.
- Find a quiet place to work (not in your bed!).
- Use breaks between classes to stretch and move.
- Eat during lunch break.
- If they are available to you, use noise cancelling headphones to minimize distractions.
- Establish a study routine.

Needed Supplies

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|--|-------------------------|-------------------|
| - charged Chromebook | - pencils | - notebook paper |
| - TI-30X IIS calculator | - red pens | - highlighter |
| - binder/folder | - best homework attempt | - CMP online book |
| - dry erase markers (needed for <i>yellow/green</i> plan learning) | | |

Grades

Grades will be based on timely completion and correction of assigned work (weighted 30% total) and on assessments (weighted 70% total). We will update grades weekly whenever possible; please recognize assessment scoring may take up to two weeks as we balance grading with the creation of new remote learning opportunities. Grades can be found in PowerSchool or under notifications in Schoology. Keeping up with your **DAILY WORK** will ensure a more successful school year.

Grading Scale

A = 100 - 90% B = 89 - 80% C = 79 - 70% D = 69 - 60% F = 59% or lower

Our Availability

- Live lessons/check-ins each day during designated class hours through Schoology.
- Friday office hours are from 10-11 am for Mrs. Brenner during “*red/yellow*” plans; I will be on our Google Meet at this time or you may request to come to Timberstone for help (unless prohibited by the health department and/or CDC). Conference period for Mrs. Brenner during “*green plan*” is 8:05 - 8:40am.
- Through email (responses within one business day).

Please fill out this [google form](#) to acknowledge your reading this letter and share with me the parent/guardian contact information.

Please do not hesitate to email me with any questions or concerns, and know that I am looking forward to getting to know you and excited to start our “unusual” 2020 - 2021 school year!

Sincerely,
Gail Brenner

