

SYCAMORE SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL
PRE-ALGEBRA
2018-2019 School Year

Teacher: Paula Mathews

Conference Period: A-Day: (4th Per.) 2:40-4:15, B-Day: (7th Per.) 1:21-2:46

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Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to PreAP Pre-Algebra! I am looking forward to a wonderful year. I realize the impact that I have on all of our students, and I take that very seriously. It is of utmost importance to get the students ready to go to high school and pursue higher mathematics. My goal is to make this math class a safe, enjoyable, and successful place. I am looking forward to getting to know you all.

This course will be flipped classroom. The basic concept behind a flipped classroom is that what was traditionally done in the classroom becomes homework and what was traditionally done at home (homework) is done in the classroom. The direct instruction or lecture portion of the class will become the homework. This will primarily be in the form of watching videos that have been produced either by myself or someone else. Students could also be asked to read sections from the textbook. As students watch the video or read the text, they should take notes on vocabulary, content and problem examples. After students watch a video, they will complete a series of questions related to the content on a Google form. When students come to class the next day we will briefly discuss what they heard in the videos and answer any questions they may have. The rest of the class time will be used for practicing the concepts from the video (homework in the traditional setting), working with manipulatives, and doing activities intended to enrich the curriculum. (A detailed parent letter will be posted on my web page providing more information about the flipped classroom).

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to cover the 8th grade math standards and to prepare students for Algebra I. We will be implementing the new math TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) this year. These TEKS cover number theory and operations, surface area/volume, solving equations and inequalities, proportional relationships, graphing, slope, Pythagorean theorem, statistics, transformations, problem solving, and other Pre-Algebra skills.

TEXTBOOK: Students will be using an online textbook entitled McGraw-Hill Course 3. Students will receive their online access information including username and password during the first two weeks of school. A link for accessing the online textbook can also be found on my website. Students will be able to access the online textbook through the Internet on any device or using the textbook APP on their mobile device. Any student who is unable to access their online textbook from home will be able to do so at school. My classroom is available during morning tutorials as well as the CLI (Center for Learning and Innovation). Students taking study hall should also have access to technology devices as well.

GRADING PROCEDURES: Grades will be computed based on the following percentages: 70% summative and 30% formative. Summative grades include tests (weighted 2 times), quizzes, projects, and presentations. Formative grades include homework and daily work. Grades will be posted regularly in order that you may check Skyward Family Access to monitor your child's progress. Feel free to contact me at anytime regarding questions about your student's grades.

HOMEWORK/CLASSWORK POLICY: Students can expect to have some form of homework every day. Since the class is being flipped, homework will primarily be in the form of watching a video over the next day's instructional material and taking notes. I will provide links to prompt notes that students may use for their notes or they can do their own. Students will complete a Google form after watching the video as a means of checking their understanding on the basic concepts covered in the video. Students can earn up to ten points on questions related to the information they watched in the video. In addition, occasionally classwork not finished in class may be assigned from the textbook or other assigned work such as worksheets. Homework/classwork other than Google video checks will be graded on mastery based on a selection of problems from each assignment. All questions and work must be shown to receive full credit. All assignments are expected to be completed on time by the student. Your student can expect approximately 30 minutes of homework each evening. Class time will be used for students to practice the curriculum from the videos, delve deeper into the content, ask questions, and receive individual help. If your student is consistently spending more than 30 minutes on homework, please let me know. Frequent quizzes will be given over the curriculum to assess mastery.

HOMEWORK VIDEOS: Students will be able to access the homework videos from my assignment link on my web page. Videos will be arranged by unit of study. (Students may choose to watch other content videos on the internet or research the content themselves.) If students have difficulty accessing videos they can bring a flash drive that I can download current videos. There are also opportunities for students to watch videos while at school. The CLI (Center for Learning and Technology) and my classroom are open before school. Students should also have an opportunity to watch videos in their study hall class. **Students who use Safari as their browser tend to have trouble with videos. I suggest Firefox or Chrome.**

MAKE-UP WORK FOR ABSENCES: It is the student's responsibility to obtain assignments missed during an excused absence. Students have one day for each day of absence to complete and submit the assignment. If a student is absent due to a school-sponsored activity, the student should obtain work in advance of the absence in order to stay current and not get behind. Students can obtain these assignments by checking the assignment page on my web-page, printing assignments from Google Classroom, asking the teacher during tutorials or seatwork time, or checking with a study buddy. Work assigned prior to the first day of absence is due the day the student returns to class.

RETAKE POLICY for SUMMATIVE QUIZZES AND TESTS:

ALL Students have the opportunity to correct and retake any quiz or test (excluding final exams and projects). Students are **required** to complete corrections prior to retaking any quiz or test. They may attend tutorials to receive re-teaching or help with their corrections. Students will have

the opportunity to retake any quiz or test within five (5) days of grade being returned. **Student will receive the higher of the two grades.** Students are only allowed one retest opportunity per quiz/test.

MAKE UP WORK FOR FAILED ASSIGNMENTS:

- Failing grade on formative assignments: Students have no opportunity to correct for a higher grade.
- Failing grade on projects, presentations or final exams: Students have no opportunity to correct for a higher grade.

LATE WORK:

Formative Assignments: Students have a **two-day** window to turn in late work for a maximum grade of 70. After the two-day window, the grade will be a zero.

Summative Assignments: Students have a **one-day** window to turn in late work for a maximum grade of 70. After the one-day window, the grade will be a zero.

[Please be sure to check the assignment schedule posted on my website for due dates.](#)

TUTORING: Students may receive additional help outside of class before school from 8:30-8:55 or by scheduling a time with the teacher. If for some reason I am unavailable in the morning, there may be another math teacher that your child can receive help from.

SPECIFIC SUPPLY LIST: Students will need to bring their notebook, No. 2 pencils (or mechanical pencils), notebook paper, composition notebook for notes, hi-liter, and red grading pen to class on a daily basis. (A notebook completion grade will probably be taken once a unit.) Students also need a graphing calculator (TI-84 is suggested). Students can bring their own calculator to school or they may use a classroom calculator during class. Classroom calculators cannot be checked out for use during study hall or taken home. Other supplies not listed on the grade level supply list from the beginning of the year may be needed later for different units or projects. Students will be notified in advance when this occurs.

ASSIGNMENT LOGS: All students will be expected to record all assignments in some form, whether it is their own assignment notebook, on their electronic device, or using the assignment log that can be purchased from the counselor's office. The student's assignment log should be brought to class every day and should be available for checking at anytime. Lost Assignment Logs can be replaced at the cost of \$5.00.

SSMS CAMPUS DISCIPLINE PLAN

The discipline plan at SSMS focuses on student discipline not on student punishment. Students are expected to show PRIDE (Pride, Respect, Integrity, Determined, Excellence), which are the guiding principles of SSMS. Teachers will be presenting this plan to students during the first week of school.

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP: Students are encouraged to use electronic devices in class at the teacher's discretion. It is understood that technology and social media can be a distraction. It is extremely important that each of us does our best to remain respectful as learners and digital citizens. There will be consequences if the technology disrupts the learning environment, either your own personal learning environment or the learning environment of those around you.

TO PARENTS: I am excited about having your student in my class! Please do not hesitate to call or e-mail if you have a concern. I will be happy to discuss any concerns via email, phone or individual conference. Please be sure to check out my teacher webpage for useful information. Weekly assignment agendas are posted stating homework, quizzes and tests along with their assigned date, due date and last date accepted. Class prompt notes, copies of worksheets, project information and other items of interest can also be found in student's Google Classroom.

Together, let's have a successful and rewarding year! I hope to see you at "Meet the Teacher" on September 4.

Please click on the link below and complete the form indicating that you have read and understood the Pre-Algebra syllabus as well as indicating if your child will be bringing their own technology device to school.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1mb1fmp_5KLXrHg4EDRncYh0SEXv8aNT4SRlT6eKUFFo/viewform?usp=send_form