

Math

MATH WITH MISS. PLANT

I believe that all students have the ability to succeed and shape their own lives in positive ways. I will encourage them to recognize their potential and use it to improve themselves and their communities. My goal this year is to have each student gain a love of learning and a deeper understanding of mathematics. Achieving our classroom goal will require the cooperation of parents/guardians, students, and teachers. In order to attain this goal, we will need organization, policies, and procedures. These are outlined below.

RULES

All Reagan Academy rules apply to our classroom. Students are also asked to...

- Show Respect (to other people, the environment, and yourself. This includes not talking while others are speaking, raising your hand, and not distracting fellow students.)
- Do your best (which requires believing in yourself, being prepared, always trying as hard as you can, and staying on task.)

PROCEDURES

At the BEGINNING of class

- Enter the room quietly
- Get necessary supplies (calculator, paper, pencil, etc.)
- Turn in Homework when instructed to do so
- Sit quietly and wait for instructions

During the Lesson

- Follow along, take notes, and participate
- Ask questions about the lesson being given
- Remain seated & face forward

After the Lesson

- Work quietly on assigned practice problems
- Ask questions on the practice problems or concepts from previous lessons
- Stay on task

At the END of class

- Pack up your belongings
- Clean your area, desk, and device before you leave
- Leave class quietly and be respectful while in the halls

Hall Pass (Bathroom / Locker / Office)

- Use the restroom, go to your locker, and visit the drinking fountain BEFORE coming to class.
- You will be given 3 hall passes for each term. Additional trips to your locker or bathroom will be allowed in emergency situations only. Continually requesting to leave class may result in an individual conference with the teacher.
- Be prepared. You will not be allowed to make trips to your locker during the lesson.

CLASS POLICIES & GRADING

Please note that students are expected to follow all school rules and guidelines in class.

PRACTICE (60% of Final Grade)

Students learn and master new concepts through practice. Practice will be given daily. This includes assignments (40%) as well as notes, showing work, and independent practice (20%).

ALEKS

ALEKS Practice and Grades

The Aleks program will be our main practice and assessment tool throughout the school year. Login information will be provided as soon as possible. Assignments and assessments will be completed online.

Students will be expected to **show their work for each math assignment and take notes during the lesson**. This is an important skill that will help improve student success and understanding in this class and in future math classes. Assignments that do not show work may be given a score of 0. Students may be asked to show their work in the form of individual assignments, and/or showing work exercises. Math practice work may be graded daily or reviewed by the teacher at any time. As a result, students should keep their math work together and organized. Notes will be collected at least once during the term for review and grading.

Red pens, neon pens, highlighters, and markers should not be used to complete math homework problems. If they are used students may be asked to redo the assignment.

An automatic email invitation will be sent to parents from ALEKS. If the invitation is accepted Parents will receive automatic updates on their student's progress. If your student does not have online access to Aleks at home please contact Miss Plant.

For detailed grade information please see the student's Gradebook in ALEKS.

Visit Aleks at my.mheducation.com.

Since Aleks grades are constantly changing, for both current and past assignments, the grades in Aspire will only be grade summaries.

Similarly, since grades must be manually transferred to Aspire there will be a delay.

The Aleks gradebook can be accessed by logging into Aleks. Go to the 3 bar drop-down menu and select "Gradebook". The gradebook only shows scores for assignments that have closed (passed the due date). If you go to the "Assignments" page under the same menu you can see upcoming and current assignments as well as those that are past due.

ALEKS DOES NOT SHOW +/- LETTER GRADES:

As a result, when viewing grades in Aleks look at the PERCENTAGE rather than just the letter grade. For example, if a student has a 93% in Math. In Aleks the score will be viewed as an A. However, in Aspire the grade will be an A-. So, while percentage grades in Aspire and Aleks will be identical, the letter grade may vary. The Aspire letter grade will be accurate. +/- letter grades will be used for final term grades.

Please refer to the Middle School Mark Set for the accurate letter grade associated with the student's percentage score in Aleks.

100 – 94 A

93.99 – 90 A-

89.99 – 87 B+

86.99 – 84 B

83.99 – 80 B-

79.99 – 77 C+

76.99 – 74 C

73.99 – 70 C-

69.99 – 67 D+

66.99 – 64 D

63.99 – 60 D-

59.99 – 0 F

Lesson Notes

I will check periodically to make sure that you have completed the lesson notes given in class. Notes should be kept in order in the student's math folder/binder. If you are absent, get a copy of the daily class notes (or a piece of lined paper labeled with the lesson number) and write "ABSENT" on the top and keep it with your other class notes so you do not lose points. The note check will be part of the practice portion of your grade. A note check can be given without notice, so keep your notes organized and bring them to class with you every day.

Correcting Aleks Assignments

Aleks assignments can be completed up to 5 times within the active time window to allow the students to improve their scores. Answered questions will appear either GREEN (Correct) or RED (Incorrect) or YELLOW (Partially Correct) to let students know what they can fix. Examples of how to solve the problems are also provided in Aleks.

Late Aleks Assignments

If an Aleks assignment is completed late the student will lose up to 25% on their score. The students can use their late passes (they receive 3 a term) on Aleks assignments to remove the late penalty. If the assignment is late due to illness or another excused absence please contact Miss Plant to have the late penalty removed.

Assignments will be open for approximately 2 weeks or until the end of term, whichever comes first. After that time assignments will not be accessible. Students should make every effort to complete assignments before the 2-week deadline. After 2 weeks unsubmitted assignments will be given a score of a 0. Until that time, un-attempted or unsubmitted assignments may not impact the student's grade.

Reviews & PreTests

Review assignments are given periodically and cover concepts that were already taught in previous lessons. This is a great opportunity to ask questions, deepen understanding, and reinforce topics learned in class. Pre-Tests will always be given prior to assessments. There are no surprise quizzes or tests. Students will always be notified in advance when a test will take place and are encouraged to use reviews and pre-tests to study for the assessments and to make sure they understand the given concepts. Students can arrange to come in at lunch recess for extra assistance if needed.

Worksheet Practice

If Aleks and/or related technology is unavailable or does not cover the intended content, we will complete assignments using worksheets or other available formats. This is rare.

TESTS (40% of Final Grade)

Assessments

Several tests will be given each term. They will cover concepts learned in class. It is very important to show your work on tests. Partial credit may be given on missed problems if work is shown. Tests must be completed by the student without assistance. Tests cannot be completed at home. Calculators can only be used on exams when indicated by the teacher. Students will be provided 2 opportunities to take tests. If students are not happy with their first score they can retake the test. The highest score will be kept. Students will be encouraged to study and practice prior to taking the retake as needed. If after 2 attempts the student is still unhappy with their score they should talk with Miss Plant regarding individual interventions to help improve their grade and/or performance. Exam scores may be used as placement criteria for future math classes.

Other Grading Policies

Absences

Miss Plant
Email: dplant@reaganacademy.org
Website via reaganacademy.org

If you are going on vacation I request that you give me one week's notice. However, it is not possible to provide assignment information in advance. Aleks assignments open for all students at the same time and cannot be adjusted. However, extended time may be provided for individual students as needed. Assigned work can change at any time. Check my Aleks, daily for assignment information. Lesson videos may be available on my Reagan website or Planbook.

Assignments that are late due to an **excused/planned absence** will not be counted as late. For Aleks assignments, **once the assignments have been completed** students can turn in their completed work on lined paper with their name, class period, assignment name, date completed, and reason for the late assignment, and give it to Miss Plant to remove the penalty. Students will have until the end-of-term deadline to turn in these assignments. However, it is recommended that students complete those assignments prior to taking the test associated with the missed lessons.

It is the responsibility of the student to obtain all missed assignments and notes. It is the student's responsibility to arrange to take make-up tests. Tests given shortly after absences will not be postponed unless arranged by the student or parent. If a student will be absent at the end of the term they should make special arrangements with the teacher.

What was the assignment?

Check Aleks for assignment information.

Extra Credit

Occasionally, Extra Credit Assignments will be posted in Aleks. These assignments will be labeled Extra Credit or EC. These assignments are optional. Take advantage of these opportunities when they are provided. Additional extra credit will not be given at the end of the term.

Birthdays

Students will receive a free homework pass for their birthday. If their birthday occurs over the summer students will receive the pass for their half birthday. For birthdays that fall over a holiday or on a weekend, their "birthday" will be the day we get back. Passes must be used the week of the student's birthday or half-birthday as described above. Passes cannot be used at a later date.

Progress Reports

Progress Reports will not be distributed to parents or students. To check student progress I **strongly encourage parents to check ALEKS & Aspire frequently**. I will work diligently to update Aspire each week and Aleks will provide the most current assignment and test information.

Grading Questions

KEEP EVERYTHING! If a student claims to have turned in an assignment that is not listed in the gradebook the student **MUST** provide the completed assignment in order to receive credit. It is the responsibility of the student to keep track of their work. They should **NOT** throw work away after it has been graded but should keep it in their folder or binder. I will inform students when they no longer need to keep assignments.

Calculators

Students may use a scientific calculator on all assignments and assessments unless specifically indicated by the teacher. No graphing calculators are permitted.

Chromebooks and Tablets

Chromebooks and Tablets will be used in the classroom daily. Students are expected to use the devices appropriately and as directed. **Students may only go to Aleks.com**, unless otherwise indicated by the teacher. Visiting any other websites, using any other apps, or using the device for any other purpose is not permitted. Students who do so may face disciplinary action and may lose technology privileges in the classroom. If this occurs the student will have to complete their assignments using paper and pencil.

CHANGES TO CLASS POLICY

Parents and students will be informed of changes to class policies. Announcements will be posted on the class website.

PROMISES TO STUDENTS

- I will believe in you. I know you can all succeed and I will help you to do so. In return, I ask that you do your best.
- I will listen to you. I ask that you bring questions, concerns, or comments to me in a calm respectful manner at the appropriate time. If you have individual concerns they should be addressed in individual conferences that can be set up by seeing me before or after class.

**For detailed grade information
including missing assignments
please see the student's
gradebook in ALEKS at
my.mheducation.com**