

Hello families!

I am very excited to be your student's math teacher for this semester. Hopefully your student has already shared my syllabus with you (if not, it is linked below) I wanted to highlight a few items from the syllabus to make sure we are on the same page for the semester!

Grading: Grading for this class will be based on the the work that students produce AND the process involved in creating that work. Current brain research shows that students learn better and are more productive in math courses when standard grading systems are altered to allow them to focus on their growth, as opposed to a score, to shape their mathematical identity. As such, I will not be assigning numeric grades on assignments throughout the school year. Alternatively, for every assignment, task, or assessment, students will be given my specific expectations, collaboratively set some of their own and then receive the following feedback in person and in PowerSchool:

EE	Exceeds Expectations
ME	Meets Expectations
NY	NOT YET met expectations
I	Incomplete or Missing

The students and I worked together last week to compose this rubric for our first 4 assignments and the scores in powerschool reflect this.

Groupwork assignments scoring rubric

EE (exceeds expectations)	Your mathematical voice is evident Has an idea about ALL questions (and answer when necessary) Explains ideas thoroughly Asks questions Goes above in one way or another
ME (meets expectations)	Paper is complete, some thought process is there Some answers aren't thorough Just number answers sometimes
NY (not yet)	Only partially complete (some of work done) Some answers present but don't know why 1 or 2 questions complete No work shown

I (incomplete)	Not turned in at all
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In the next couple of days, please check powerschool with your student and have a chat about their progress so far. "Everyone can learn math to high levels" is one of our norms in class and I hope you will join me in helping our students develop a growth mindset toward math and do challenging work they are really proud of along the way.

I will likely send email updates every few weeks so be on the lookout for those and, as always, email me if you have any thoughts or wonderings!

Warmly,
Sarah

Good afternoon, parents of 9th grade math students!

It is hard to believe that the semester is almost over. The students have been working hard to finish up their eMpATHy project to share with you at exhibition on Thursday, December 15. They have repeatedly blown me away with their creativity and thoughtfulness during this entire project and I can't wait for you to come celebrate their work! They have also been exploring new math content in our "functions" unit.

Grade proposals: As you are now very aware, this semester I have not been assigning numeric grades on assignments. Alternatively, for every assignment, task, or assessment, students have collectively worked on expectations and been given EE, ME, NY or I for all of our work. As the semester comes to a close, students will be examining their body of evidence (all scores from powerschool) and proposing a letter grade to represent their effort and learning this semester. Today I distributed their powerschool printouts and they wrote down both what letter grade they feel they could currently propose AND what their goal is. Please ask your students about this process and where they are at. Some have a lot of work to do to get to their goal grade and others are pretty much there!

Parent Survey: Thank you to those of you who already took the parent survey. If you didn't get a chance, please click on this google form and answer a few questions to help the math teachers at HTH better understand parent opinions around math instruction.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfE9wII6-9_vt9nrM6Td1Nhkw4-KPJR2bmoZ2Ya5I7QQN1jxw/viewform

As always, email me with any questions and I look forward to seeing you on the 15th!

Warmly,
Sarah Strong

Hello parents!

The students are working very hard in math class to wrap up our eMpATHy project which we will be exhibiting at the all-school exhibition night in December. In the meantime, I wanted to let you know about a few happenings that you should be aware of:

1. **Grade Proposals**: Powerschool has been updated with the students' first quarter grade proposals. When you log in, you will see a collection of their scores on various assignments: (EE: exceeds expectations, ME: meets expectations, NY: not yet, I: Incomplete). The letter grade that is there was proposed by your student and confirmed by me based on their work throughout the semester. Most students brought their grade proposals home and got them signed by you, but if you have further questions, please feel free to email me and we can follow up on specifics.

2. **Bivariate Statistics Portfolios**: Students should be getting ready to compile their portfolio for their Bivariate Statistics unit. The entire portfolio will be due NEXT TUESDAY. This will include putting all work into final draft format, writing a reflection, and creating a visual summary of learning. ([Bivariate Statistics Portfolio Requirements](#))

3. **Table Talk Math**: The Table Talk Math submission has been low the last two weeks. Please check in with your student about whether they have been getting them in. You can also check powerschool to see if they were submitted. Remember, the purpose of these is to bring mathematical conversations into your home and for you to help model that everyone can do math! Thank you for your continued support in this:)

As always, email me with any questions!