

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math

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E224  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade

August 12, 2014

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to my 7<sup>th</sup> grade math class. I hope you have had a relaxing summer vacation. I look forward to a great year working with you and your student.

### **Required Supplies:**

- Lots of mechanical pencils or sharpened regular ones
- A phone book heap of college ruled paper
- Spiral Notebook (**for notes only!!!!**)

### **Could be Helpful:**

- highlighters
- colored pencils
- calculator
- graph paper

### **Important things to know about math class**

- 1) Textbook:** by law every student must be issued a textbook. The textbook we currently have is not aligned with new core standards, but can still be used by parents and students as a resource.
- 2) Content is sequential:** In order to do well on any given day, you will need to have mastered and retained what was taught the previous day, week and month before. Extensive absences without support at home (mathematical parent, relative, or tutor) can put a student far behind quickly.
- 3) Homework:** There is no homework given in addition to classwork. It is understood that if work is not completed in class, it becomes homework. Classwork is posted on line for the week by the end of the first school day each week. Parents should require their student to bring home their classwork each day, check the assignments against the work posted online to ensure that is completed. If not each day, check at least a couple of times a week. **The previous three sentence are the most important part of this parent letter.** (When you verify by email you have read and understand this letter in the message part of the email write "I saw number three").
- 4) Quizzes:** Quizzes are 83.3% of a student's grade. The purpose of everything we do is for students to learn, and the way they can demonstrate this is by performing well on quizzes.

To Be Successful:



- Be in your seat working on the daily warm-up by the time the tardy bell rings. **Warm up questions allow you the opportunity to try questions that many students had difficulty with on past quizzes, as well as questions that are similar to what will be on future tests.** By not completing this daily task in the proscribed manner, students will never improve scores, and will be ill-prepared for future quizzes.
- Pay close attention to the lesson, and take detailed notes on what is shown and discussed. **Notes can be used on quizzes**, thus a lackluster approach to this part of the day will not have future implications on quiz performance. If there is something you do not understand, make sure you ask so your notes are helpful.
- Complete most if not all of your classwork in class.** Although classwork only makes up 15% of your grade, classwork is designed to give you the opportunity to prepare for the quiz. In class, the instructor is there to help you, and make sure you are clear on the concept being taught. Students, who lag in class and put work off, tend not to follow through and finish. **There is never additional homework assigned.** Homework is classwork that has not been completed. **Work is always posted on line so parents can double check what is being done in class! There can be periodic random work collections--so don't wait until the last minute to play catch--up**
- If you are making your best effort, and still having difficulty, come to tutoring.** I am in my room to help students at least two days a week. Find out when these days are, and show up.
- If you are absent, then make up quizzes.** If you miss a quiz, you must **make it up by the following Wednesday** after the absence occurred. It is your responsibility to remember to do this, as I will not remind you. You can come in the following Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday to make it up.
- Students should be prepared for quizzes.** Anything that is student generated (notes, warm-ups, classwork, past quizzes handed back in which the student has made corrections) **is allowed during a quiz.** The only time the open-note policy is not in place is for School and District Periodic Assessments. **If you have done everything stated above, there is no reason you should not do well on quizzes!**

Grading System

Generally, there is a quiz every other week. The quiz consists of 25 questions, and it is worth 25 points. The classwork counts as 5 points. If a week goes by and a quiz is not given, then the student's score for that week will just be out of the 5 points. Thus, the general rules for grading are as follows:

Weekly (Quiz + Classwork)		Final Grade (Percent Average of Weekly)
27 - 30	A	90% - 100%
24 - 26	B	80% - 89%
21 - 23	C	70% - 79%
18 - 20	D	60% - 69%
0 - 17	Fail	0% - 59%

Please email me at [rjp0502@lausd.net](mailto:rjp0502@lausd.net) to verify that you read this letter. Write the name of your student in the subject line, and feel free to write anything else you think you need to in the body.

Sincerely,  
R. Payne