

Math 8 Syllabus

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Course Description: Welcome! **Mathematics** is the language of reality. We use math constantly to count what's important to us in work and play. Math communicates how much of something exists, and is at least in the background of EVERYTHING WE DO. When we are effective in Life, we coordinate effectively with reality to accomplish what counts the most (literally).

One example: graduates from trade school or college earn on average \$40 - \$70 per hour of work. This is the difference between earning enough money to have things we want, and not having enough (along with working longer hours, usually). Your education is literally worth \$1,000,000 over the course of your working career. *Real-world math* pays attention to the most important numbers.

As you know, math requires logical thinking to understand and accurately complete work. A powerful relationship with clear thinking opens new possibilities for effective action in the present and future. This is not a course of math trivia, but an opening to build a brighter future as you can most powerfully and virtuously imagine it; both now and for the next ~70 years of your work and play.

Supplies: Your materials for class include a spiral notebook to keep your class notes in order, writing instruments of your choice of at least three colors to make clear drawings, and room in a folder or notebook to keep this page, unit information, and your quizzes and tests to study from.

Assignments: I design assignments to improve your knowledge and skills in math, critical thinking, and real-world skills. I promise significant value in *your* life on your own terms for each assignment. Usual assignments include taking notes on the course's units from class discussion, class participation, doing example problems in class, studying for quizzes and tests, and then successfully doing the quizzes and tests. We also have at least two projects. *In order to receive a passing grade you must have an overall assignment grade of at least 60%*. Students may retake tests as many times as needed to pass.

Extra credit: I want you to earn the grade of your choice. You may request extra work at any time to improve your grade, knowledge and/or skills. See "Purpose of mathematics" page for details.

Homework: One consistent topic of homework is for students to understand the unit's daily classwork sufficiently well to explain those unit questions and answers to the class on our daily review. There is typically a project to manage with a generous timeline along with doing our course unit. You are responsible to complete your work on schedule, and are also responsible to request whatever help you need to complete your work. While typically I do not monitor your study for a particular evening, I reserve the right to assign homework at my discretion if I feel that would help your learning.

Make-up work: I clearly state and post all assignments. *You are responsible for completing all classwork, and arranging make-up work or a later due date if necessary following an excused absence.* I accept late work, including from unexcused absences and suspensions, at my discretion. If you need to make a request to responsibly alter an assignment or due date, please ask me so we can negotiate terms for our mutual satisfaction. If you are absent for three or more days, call or e-mail me.

Policy for academic honesty: You must do your own thinking in order to receive valuable learning. Except for times we're intentionally helping each other in class, if I catch you copying the work of others (classmates or plagiarizing), or giving your work to another student to copy, that assignment will be graded as a zero and I will notify your parents. Consequences of cheating include Hoover Middle School administration intervention and consequences.

Grading: To pass this class you must have at least a "D" average for the semester's assignments (you can retake tests as many times as needed to pass). Each assignment is worth a specific number of points. Your overall grade for this class is the average of your total points. **A** = 90 – 100%, **B** = 80 – 89%, **C** = 70 – 79%, **D** = 60 – 69%, **F** = 0 – 59%. For A-D grades, plus and minus are used. For example, 90.0 – 92.4 = A-, 92.5 – 97.4 = A, 97.5 – 100 = A+

Communication: I post grades for on-line viewing, and provide printed copies for adult signature at my discretion. I encourage students and parents to communicate with each other and me to optimize student value.

Tardy policy: I start my classes promptly. I require adherence to the school tardy policy.

Class rules: I promise to deliver the entire California State Curriculum for this course in a professional, clearly understandable, and interesting format that delivers extraordinary academic value. I promise to treat you with kindness and respect. In return, I require these promises from you, as well as school rules (including uniform policy):

1. Be on time.
2. Bring all supplies.
3. Talk only with permission.
4. Do all assignments.
5. Work until finished.

I understand mistakes happen. I am happy to work with students who are honestly working to improve their behavior. However, if I feel a student is deliberately and selfishly disrupting the class' work, these are the consequences:

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| 1 st offense: | brief student conference. |
| 2 nd offense: | brief student conference at lunch, before school, or after school. |
| 3 rd offense: | brief student conference with assignment signed by parent/guardian. |
| 4 th offense: | assignment plus phone call to parents. |
| 5 th offense: | assignment plus phone call to parents inviting them for a conference. |
| 6 th offense: | conference with parents, administrator and/or counselor, student, and me.
Contingency for future offenses will be determined at conference. |

Please let me know if you have any questions, requests, comments, or concerns. Please sign to acknowledge you have read, understood, and agree to follow the terms set in this syllabus.

Thank you,

Student and parent: please sign to acknowledge you have read, understood, and agree to follow the terms set in this syllabus.

The value you receive from this class, and in life, is equal to the value you give.

$$V_R = V_G$$

✕ _____
Student signature

✕ _____
Parent or Guardian signature

PLEASE PRINT:

Student name: _____

Parent/Guardian'S name: _____

Work phone and hours:
(if I may call you here) _____

Parent/Guardian's name: _____

Work phone and hours:
(if I may call you here) _____

Home phone: _____

E-mail addresses to contact student and parents, and anything parents wish to communicate:
