

Pre-Algebra Spring 2019
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Every minute of class time is critical. The following information needs to be basically burned into your brain so we don't waste any class time! I don't expect things to be perfect right away, but I do expect we will get into these routines in the next couple of weeks. As I have told all of my students over the many years I have taught, I don't care at all about how "smart" you are or how fast you can show me a skill, all I really care about is how hard you work with a good attitude. Showing grit is the absolute best thing you can do in this class and in life. There are no dumb, on topic questions and you can always tell me to slow down, ask for help, or ask me to try to explain something a different way. Often whatever question you have, another student is probably wondering the same thing, so don't be afraid to just ask! I will try to cater to each of you, individually, as much as humanly possible. I will try and make your independent work times and whole group times as interesting as possible. I can't do all of this without you though, so this means we are now in a partnership and in this together. I truly do care and I hope you do too!

Class Procedures:

- Come to class every day with your math binder and homework, Tuesdays and Thursdays, bring your laptops or tablets
- Cell Phones go into a basket
- Turn in your homework and grab a white board and dry erase to do our class warm-up (10 minutes), you can work on your own or with a partner. Mondays and Wednesdays we will play math vocabulary games instead.
- We will briefly go over the answers, and discuss any questions you have. You may see me take quick notes on a clipboard. The notes are just me seeing if I need to add anything into your independent work folders.
- When we are done with the warm-up, we will do a math fluency drill. If you have shown mastery over all of your math facts, I will have you work on a specific skill you haven't yet mastered for the next 5-10 minutes.
- We will then have a quick group lesson (about 15 minutes)
- You will then be given collaborative work or independent work time (depending on your needs, about 10-15 minutes) where you are working on your specific learning goals and/or the lesson for the day
- The last 5 minutes of class will be going over homework and making sure you write it down in your daily planners
- **Thursdays are assessment days.** Every Thursday, you will come in, turn in your homework, go over any questions you still may have, and then take your mastery assessment. These quizzes will always have review questions on them from the weeks before. **Always go back and double check your work (especially by looking at the answer to see if it makes sense, doing the opposite operations, or plugging your answers in when you can.** When you are done with an assessment you can go online

and work in quizlet, IXL, play a math game or work on a math or tech related project. If for some reason, we don't have school on a Thursday, your test will be given on Monday or whenever the first day back is.

Independent Work Times: The procedure for independent work times are as follows.

1. Pull your folder with your name on it.
2. Open it up and look at your goal sheet.
3. Pull out the practice pages for the learning goal you want to work on
4. Ask me questions if you need to and complete the pages. **(this is not a peer discussion time, you should be working silently unless I have said otherwise).**
5. Let me know if you think you have mastered the skill. The following day, I will give you a quick, 5 question quiz with similar problems. If you get all 5 correct, you can check that skill off and pick a new one. I will give you a brief, 1:1 lesson. Repeat steps 1-5.

General Class Procedures:

-When it is collaboration time, I expect you to work respectfully with your peer with an understanding that all of our brains work differently. Someone may be having a more difficult time in math than you, or you may find yourself struggling while your partner is not. That is all okay. **Be patient with yourself, be patient with your partner.** Research and practical experience has shown that you will learn best from working with each other.

-When it is whole group instruction time (and you will know, because I will say it is whole group instruction time), raise your hand if you have a question. Questions are great, but make sure they are relevant to the instruction and that you wait patiently to be called on. Good questions asked with a politely raised hand will get an end of week bonus. If you interrupt more than 3 times, you will be off to the side writing me an essay about the importance of classroom etiquette.

-When it is independent work time, I expect you to be working, eyes down, pencil moving, unless you and I are working together on something. If you are stuck and I am with another student, I expect you to move on to a different problem or work on a different skill in your folder. There should be no down time and no distracting anyone else in the class by taking time away from their individual goals. If you are not on task, are doing something that takes away others from this time, we will stop everyone, discuss what went wrong, how we can prevent it from happening again. If this continues to be an issue, you will be writing me an essay for extra homework about why it is important to have independent practice and what you can do differently to maximize your practice time in class.

Homework:

You will have homework every night. At least once a week, it will come in the form of a lesson preview video. Other nights, it will probably be around 5 questions that will include review questions from previous lessons. Homework is always due on the next day. If you are feeling like the homework is too hard or taking too long, please let me know immediately so I can adjust

it accordingly. The reason for giving you math homework is that once you have learned a new skill, it has a better chance of going into your long term memory if you do it again 4-6 hours after you have first learned it. That extra bit of practice will not only help you remember but better prepare you for what will be on tests. Wednesday night homework will often be very similar to the quizzes or tests you will get on Thursdays.

Grade Breakdown:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Class Preparedness | 5% |
| Class Participation | 15% |
| Homework | 15% |
| Independent Work Portfolio | 15% |
| Quizzes | 20% |
| Tests | 30% |

Curriculum:

By the end of the semester, students in this class should be able to show content mastery in the following areas:

The Number System: This means that students should be able to do basic calculations with all types of rational numbers, including those that use the order of operations rules, and be able to use rational approximations of irrational numbers.

Expressions and Equations: Be able to work with and solve problems that involve exponents square and cube roots, scientific notation, linear equations, and systems of linear equations.

Functions: Work with rates of change, solve and graph linear functions, analyze graphs

Geometry: Work with rotations, reflections, and translations, know about the properties of transversal lines, understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem, know the formulas for the volumes of cones, cylinders, and spheres and use them to solve real-world problems.

Statistics and Probability: Understand what statistics are, how they are represented, and find the central tendencies, construct and interpret scatter plots, construct and interpret two way tables

Communication:

I can be reached at pnicholas@huntingtonsurrey.org . I check my email quite frequently throughout the day and will do my best to respond within 24 hours. I will keep office hours on Fridays 9-9:30 and 11:30-12:30 so feel free to swing by the bunker for extra math help if you need it. I will keep weekly updates with the homework assignments on the main school website. Your weekly grades will be updated on Friday evenings on gradelink.