8th Grade Algebra

**RLMS**

# *Mrs. Knuth*

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**Goal:**

Algebra is the branch of mathematics that deals with quantities and the relations of numbers in the abstract using letters and symbols. Some of the major topics are equation solving, graphing, powers, polynomials and functions. This course develops algebraic concepts and skills while fostering mathematical reasoning, problem solving and communication.

Materials:

You will need a binder, loose-leaf paper, pencils/pens, a highlighter, a scientific calculator, a notebook and folders.

Classroom rules:

1. Be prepared and in your seat when class starts.
2. Participate in class activities. Math is learned by doing, not watching!
3. Behave in a manner that is respectful of the people around you and does NOT interfere with the learning of others.

Grading Scale:

A 93-100 B+ 87-89 C+ 77-79 D+ 67-69 F 0-59

A- 90-92 B 83-86 C 73-76 D 63-66

B- 80-82 C- 70-72 D- 60-62

Grading: Your quarterly math grade will be divided into two weighted categories, formative and summative.

a. Formative: Weight – 25%; includes daily work, in-class activities, partner or group work, etc.

\*\*Late work policy: Late assignments will receive zeros. Full credit can be earned for any late assignment that is later handed in.

\*\*Absent work policy: Notes will be typically provided for you when school is missed, but it is your responsibility to read those notes and complete the assignment(s) from any day(s) missed.

\*\*Check work policy: You may check any assignment or part of an assignment with me before it is due. This will give you the opportunity to correct mistakes before the assignment is actually graded.

b. Summative: Weight – 75%; includes unit quizzes and/or tests

\*\*Per our middle school policy, summative assessments may be redone if content or skills were not mastered. Before an assessment can be redone however, you will need to complete a blue RLMS math retake form. Once an assessment is retaken, the higher of the two grades will be recorded.

\*\*There will be semester exams in this class, as it is a high school credited course. Both will be open notes, so keep your notes and assignments from the year!

Infinite Campus: Refer to this site for real-time information about your assignments, assessments, grades, attendance, and much more.

Weebly: Please see my school Weebly for specific links or files useful for class and assignments.

Livebinders: This resource is an online digital binder organized by unit and designed to be a place for you to go for additional tools to help you master the content or learn more about specific topics in math.

Calculator Use:

Calculators are used to enhance our mathematics program. However, they are not a substitute for knowledge of basic facts or mental math skills. Students will be asked to demonstrate proficiency in basic skills frequently throughout the year. Mental math, when appropriate, is stressed regularly.

Getting help: Please try to see me during study hall time for check-overs, to ask questions and seek help, or to make up missing work. You also have the option of staying after school to complete these tasks. Please check with me to determine when I am available…don’t assume that I will be here, as I might have a meeting, an appt, or be coaching after school on some days.

High school math placement:

Placement into a freshman math course will depend on the student’s performance in 8th grade Algebra and on various district assessments given throughout the year (ex: Aimsweb). It is important for students to always try to do their best in class and on these assessments so that an appropriate placement can be made.

\*\*If you have any questions regarding placements for next year, feel free to call Mrs. Knuth or Ms. Rodgers at 994-2498.