

8th Grade Pre-Algebra

Course Content: The concepts covered in class include data analysis, graphing, integers, equations, expressions, inequalities, linear equations, linear inequalities, proportions and percents. In this course, the concepts learned in one section are expanded and built upon in future sections and chapters. We will begin the year with only a *brief* “refresher” of fractions and decimals. By the time students are in pre-algebra, it is assumed they have mastered fractions and decimals.

Rules: When the tardy bell rings, students are expected to be in the classroom, with all their necessary supplies. Students arriving after the tardy bell and/or without their supplies will receive a tardy.

In the classroom, students are expected to abide by three classroom rules 1) Be Respectful, 2) Be Responsible and 3) Be Prepared. Students in violation of these rules may receive a behavior report, or in the case of serious offenses, a detention.

Supplies: Students are required to arrive each day with the following supplies. Students who arrive to class without the required supplies will not be allowed to return to their locker to retrieve them and will receive a tardy. (Remember, 3 tardy slips in a given quarter will result in detention.)

- Textbook
- 3-subject spiral notebook (for math use only!)
- Pencils (mechanical or standard #2 pencils)
- Grading pen (any color except black)
- Pocket folder
- Agenda
- Scientific Calculator (I recommend Texas Instruments' TI-30XIIS – Wal-Mart, Target & Staples have these for around \$10.)

Textbooks: School issued textbooks are expected to be covered at all times. Students may cover their textbooks with heavy paper, such as brown grocery bags, or purchased fabric book covers. Students without properly covered textbooks will be informed of the violation and given 24 hours to cover their books. Students failing to cover their books within that time will be given a behavior report.

Grading: The overall math grade is based on several components:

Bell Work – Bell Work is a daily problem-solving activity. Bell Work sheets are handed out at the beginning of each week and students are expected to keep their sheet until it is collected at the end of the week. Students who lose their sheets are given a replacement sheet, but will receive only half-credit.

Each day a problem is presented to the students. The students are to work the problem, showing all work or explaining how they arrived at their answer. At the end of the allotted time, students share their strategies for solving the problem and their answers. Students may make

notes on their bell work sheet and are to mark the correct answer. Bell work sheets are worth 15 points. Students will receive more detailed information and instructions in class regarding the expectations and procedures for Bell Work.

Daily work – Students are given homework in order to provide further practice on concepts presented in class. Typically, the assignment will consist of problems from the textbook or a worksheet. The amount of work assigned is limited, and I strive to give students 10-15 minutes of class time to start each assignment and to ask for help, if needed. If an assignment is brought home, it should take no longer than 20-30 minutes to complete. Some students may complete their work at school and may not have homework. If your child is attempting to complete the assignment, but seems to take an inordinate amount of time or appears to be struggling with the assignment, please let me know.

We go over the previous day's assigned work at the beginning of each class period, so students are able to receive immediate feedback on their understanding of presented concepts. Students are given the opportunity to ask questions or seek help on any problems or concepts with which they may need assistance. Students are not given homework on Friday. (It may be necessary for a student who has been absent or who has not completed an assignment to work on math assignments over the weekend.)

Students are given 5 points for having their assignment completed, showing all work and having the assignment completed in pencil. Work in pen or that is incomplete will not be accepted and will receive a score of zero. Students may re-do or finish the assignment and hand it in as late work for reduced points. (**It is the student's responsibility to make sure the work is re-done and submitted; I will not ask for it!**) Per junior high policy, students are allowed one late assignment per quarter. Any late assignment will receive a point deduction of 10%. Two or more late assignments in a given quarter will be accepted, but the student will not receive credit for the assignment(s).

Quick checks – Approximately one or two times a week, I will collect a specific assignment, grade it and record the students' scores. These assignments allow me to check for student comprehension of the concepts we are currently covering. Quick checks can consist of problems from the board, an assignment from the text or a worksheet. Quick checks are worth 25 points.

Quizzes – Periodically during a chapter, students will be given quizzes worth 50 points. Quizzes are always announced and we spend the class period prior to each quiz reviewing the material to be covered on the quiz.

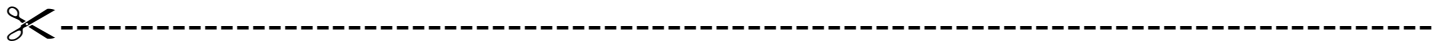
Study guides & Tests – At the end of each chapter, students will be given a study guide. Students are always given class time to work on the study guide, but will need to do some of it at home, and we ALWAYS go over the study guide prior to the test. Students receive 25 points for simply turning in their completed study guide on the day of the test. The tests are worth 100 points.

Math Calendar: At the beginning of each month, I provide students with a math calendar. On this calendar, I outline the concepts and sections from the textbook I expect to be covering each day. The calendar also identifies upcoming tests and quizzes. The calendar is subject to change, but does allow students and parents to keep abreast of current and up-coming concepts. At the bottom of the calendar is a parent signature slip. Students receive bonus points for returning the slip signed by a

parent or guardian. The math calendar is updated weekly and can be viewed on the school's website, www.cathedralschooljc.com.

Extra Credit: Students who want to receive a "good grade" in math should focus on doing well on assignments, quick checks, quizzes and tests, and should not rely on extra credit. The main source of extra credit offered is the math calendar described above. Occasionally, I may offer students the opportunity to earn extra credit on an assignment, quiz or test. I do not offer extra credit on an individual student basis.

I am looking forward to working with your child this year and helping them to have a positive and successful experience in math. If need be, please do not hesitate in contacting me. I can be reached at school through e-mail (flo.minor@cathedralschooljc.com) or by phone (635-5024). My plan period is 11:10-11:50 each day.



Please sign and return this slip indicating that you have received and reviewed the 8th grade pre-algebra information sheet. Students are to return this slip by Friday, August 22.

student signature

homeroom

parent signature