

Dear 7th Grade Families,

I am very excited for the start of the new school year. This year the 7th graders will have me not only for math, but also for literature and vocab. I wanted to inform all of you of how these new classes will be run, as well as some new things happening in the classroom.

Math

Math class this year for the 7th graders will be a challenge as they will be in Pre-Algebra. Our math class will consist of three parts. Daily assignments, which will be worth 45% of the overall grade, will be given on the topic discussed in class. All assignments will need to be completed in their math notebook, which will be their graph paper notebook. Any late daily assignments will be docked 10% each day it is late and will not be accepted after the chapter test. Tests will be given at the end of each chapter, with several days of review preceding it. The tests will also be worth 45% of the overall grade. If someone struggles on a test, they will get an opportunity to retake the test. Their final score for the test will be an average of the two scores. However, it is the **individual student's responsibility** to schedule the retake with me, whether it be at lunch, after school, etc. The third part of class, which will be worth 10% of the grade, is class presentations. These are new to math class this year. At the start of each class, three or four problems from the homework assignment the night before will be presented to the class by the students. For each two week period, each student will be asked to present at least two problems to the class. A class presentation consists of coming up to the whiteboard, showing the work they did on the problem, and walking the class through the process of arriving at the answer. This will be very beneficial to everyone. It will show me how much they truly understand the concepts, it will allow the rest of the class to hear a peer explain the concept, and it will help the presenter become more comfortable talking in front of others. On top of this, they say the best way to fully understand something is to teach it, and the students will get that opportunity to teach each other.

Literature

For literature this year, the 7th graders will be in a literature textbook that will allow them to read a variety of different stories and genres. Included in literature will not only be comprehension questions, but also many class projects, skits, etc. Also, final evaluations on a unit will not always consist of a test, but may also be a project done inside or outside of class that would show the understanding of the material learned as well.

Along with literature also comes book reports. Each student will be required to do one book report per quarter. They will be required to read one book from four different genres throughout the year, however they will be able to choose the order they read them in. They will also be required to do four different types of book report throughout the year on the different books they read. The different genres and book report types will be presented to the students in class in the first week, and the forms handed out to them will also be found on my classroom website.

Vocab

For the 7th grade Vocab class, they will be in a similar book to what they were in last year as 6th graders, however the class will be treated somewhat differently. Vocab class will meet once a week (Wednesdays), and it will take 2 weeks to work through each unit in the book. The first week, the unit in the book will be due and corrected in class. The second week, a spelling test will be given on the words in the unit as well as a separate vocab test. The vocab test will consist of multiple choice questions dealing with the definitions of the words, synonyms and antonyms, and using the words in a sentence. The only units that will not be tested are the review units. Those units will only take one week to work through.

New Features

There are several other new features in my classroom I am very excited about that the 7th graders will have access to. First, there is a new CD library in my classroom full of the latest in Christian music. The 7th graders will have the opportunity to check CD's out from this library throughout the year.

The other new feature is the opportunity to check grades online. In the first week or two of school, the 7th graders will have the opportunity to learn how to access their grades online. After this, you will receive a sheet showing how you can access them as well. On this website, you will be able to check the grade in the classes, as well as any missing assignments your child may have. More information on this to come.

Thank you so much for being a part of our school family. If you ever have any questions or concerns for me, my information is below. The best ways to contact me is my e-mail or my cell phone if it is something that requires immediate attention. I would like to know the best ways to contact you as well. If you could fill out the contact sheet accompanying this, that would be great. Thank you once again. It is going to be a great year.

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