

## **Middle School Math**

At the beginning of the academic year we had the students complete a diagnostic assessment to make sure they have been properly placed. It also helps us determine what areas need to be stressed as we review and prepare to move on. Mrs. Ryan and I share the responsibility for teaching the middle school math class with the exception of Algebra 2. We have the same planning period and meet daily so we can discuss our plans and make any adjustments necessary. Our goal is to have the math class split so that I see every student and get to know them. I am the lead teacher and am responsible for their grades and communications with you.

Math is scheduled opposite study hall, Physical Education or Drama. This enables us to create math classes that are based upon ability and math level rather than simply grade level. Every math period we teach has students in two levels of math.

We have used the graphing calculators with all 7<sup>th</sup> grade students except those in pre-Algebra. We may demonstrate some of the graphing calculator capabilities later with the Pre-Algebra group as well, but I will use class resources for this.

### **Fifth Grade**

Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students can be in Course 1, Course 2 or Pre-Algebra. Course 1 meets 6<sup>th</sup> period; right after lunch recess with Pre-Algebra. Course 2 meets 7<sup>th</sup> period with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra group.

### **Sixth Grade**

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade has students in Course 2, Pre-Algebra & Algebra. Course 2 is similar in content to Course 1, but more complex. The content builds and expands on Course 1.

### **Seventh Grade**

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are in Pre-Algebra, Algebra or Algebra 2. 9:45-10:30 is the Pre-Algebra/Algebra section -- Pre-Algebra has 5 students & Algebra has 9.

The Algebra 2 class has twelve students from 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This class meets daily at 10:30 and is exclusively my responsibility. Mrs. Ryan teaches a 4<sup>th</sup> grade group during this period.

### **Eighth Grade**

All students in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class are either in Algebra 1 or Algebra 2. Those in Algebra 1 have math daily at 9:45 and are joined by 3 students from the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. A group of 7<sup>th</sup> grade Pre-Algebra students also have math during this period, but Mrs. Ryan & I work with them separately. Those in Algebra 1 all took a pre-test to assess their Algebra readiness. They also completed the Iowa Algebra Aptitude test to demonstrate their alacrity.

If you have any questions please contact me!

Ms. Clare McComb Detzler  
Math teacher  
X 238  
[cdetzler@dvacademy.org](mailto:cdetzler@dvacademy.org)

### **Math Textbooks**

Everyone has a math textbook for their course. Students in 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade have books that they could take home because we have enough copies in the classroom to provide them a book here as well. I have suggested students get XL book covers to keep their books from becoming damaged. If unusual damage occurs I may need to assess damage charges at the end of the year.

### **Math Class Specifics**

There will be daily math assignments. Some students will be able to complete the assignment in class, but I generally expect them to have to spend some time outside of class. Homework is expected to be completed on time. I do not accept late work unless there are extenuating circumstances. I post homework on Sycamore daily. It may not be there until the end of the school day, but it will be posted before I leave the building. However, your children are expected to write their assignments in the assignment notebook during class – please encourage this at home.

Formal assessments will usually be given at the end of a chapter or unit. Students will know in advance, and I will note exam dates on the web site.

Homework	10-25%
Tests	50-60%
Classwork	5-15%
Quizzes	10-20%

Projects are rarely assigned in math class, but when we have a project I usually put the grade in the quiz or classwork category. I do sometimes have students write 'Math Stories' or do 'Math Art' such as tessellations.

## **Thumbnails of Each Math Level**

### **Course 1**

Whole numbers & decimals, Operations with fractions, Geometric concepts, Basic probability, Integers and simple equations. Problem solving techniques are discussed and applied.

### **Course 2**

Decimals and integers, Exponents, factors and fractions, Percents, Patterns, and Displaying and analyzing Data. This course is similar in content, but more complex than Course 1.

### **Pre-Algebra**

Algebraic expressions, Solving one-step equations and inequalities. Decimals and equations, Linear functions. Spatial linking, area and volume, & right triangles. Nonlinear functions and polynomials. Problem solving is emphasized throughout this course.

### **Algebra**

Equations, Inequalities, Linear equations, Absolute value inequalities and graphs. Exponential rules and Polynomial and quadratic functions. Probability.

### **Algebra 2**

Functions and linear systems, Matrices, Quadratic equations & functions. Polynomials and their functions. Rational, radical, exponential and logarithmic functions. Sequences and Series. Probability and Statistics. Possibly a little bit of trig.

### **MathCounts®**

MathCounts® is a national organization for middle school students. Any student may participate in the club meetings at school. Teams of competitors will be selected for the competitions we attend during the year. We typically compete at St. Francis the first Saturday in December, Marmion in March, IMSA on a school day in March, and the actual MathCounts competition is held usually the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in February. We cannot have 5<sup>th</sup> grader students

compete at the last two events, but if they qualify, they may compete at the high school events. Practice starts on Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will meet from 8:00 – 8:30 am, and probably add another practice on Wednesdays beginning in November. I will keep those that sign up for MathCounts informed. in November. Last year we were invited to participate in math competitions held at St. Francis and Marmion. I use participation and achievement in MathCounts® to determine the teams for all events. In January a school test will be held that finalizes the team for the Chapter MathCounts® competition. We are limited to a total of 8 members. Attendance to practice sessions will also be considered when forming the team. Information at [www.mathcounts.org](http://www.mathcounts.org)

### **AMC 8**

This math competition is simply a one day test with recognition and awards. All interested students may participate on the designated day, but it will not be required. Details will be available as the test date gets closer . Information about the organization can be found at: <http://www.unl.edu/amc/e-exams/e4-amc08/amc8.shtml>

### **AMC 10**

High scoring students will be encouraged to take the AMC 10 in February.