

Deerfield Community School - 8th Grade Math (2002-2003)

Policies and Procedures

Teacher: Mr. Dudley

The aim of this course is to develop the student's "math sense" by improving their comfort level with mathematical computation skills and thinking skills. I want students to become thinkers, and not simply symbol manipulators. We will cover a broad spectrum of math skills, and place an emphasis on problem solving. I also want students to realize that math is everywhere, and not a topic isolated in the math class. We will do a variety of projects throughout the year. Many of these projects will have an emphasis on connections to the student's lives and interests. We will also do quite a bit of writing in math. Writing gives student's another way of communicating their understanding of many math topics.

Class Preparation:

It is imperative that students come to class prepared. This includes, but is not limited to, bringing their textbook, notebook, pencil (the preferred writing instrument for doing math), and any assignments due. Being prepared for class is the only way to be a productive, contributing member of our math class.

Homework:

1. Homework is assigned to reinforce new concepts learned in class or to review material in preparation for a test or quiz. It is not assigned everyday.
2. I find students who do homework on a consistent basis do much better on tests and therefore get better grades. They also develop good work habits and are better prepared for high school math courses.
3. We will correct the homework together, usually at the start of class, then I will collect them for recording.
4. All homework is to be handed in on time.
5. It is your responsibility to make up all work missed due to missing classes. I will be available for help, if needed.

Math Notebooks:

All students will be required to keep a math notebook.

1. Bring to class every day.
2. Take and keep examples of new procedures and new types of problems listed on the board, and discussed in class.
3. Keep your classwork, homework, quizzes, and tests in your notebook.

4. On occasion, we will have open-notebook quizzes or tests.
5. Your notebook could be a valuable resource for your future math classes in high school.

Math Journals:

Students will be required to keep math journals. In these journals, students will be asked to write reflections on problems solved, videos, presentations, and their thoughts on math in general. These entries will be kept confidential, and will be counted as homework grades (effort only).

Grading:

1. **Tests:** Always announced in advance, usually 2 or 3 per term. Your test average will count as 30% of your grade.
2. **Quizzes:** Think of a quiz as a practice test. They are most often based on preceding assignments. I will drop your lowest quiz grade for each term. Your quiz average will count as 25% of your grade.
3. **Projects:** There will be a variety of projects throughout the year. Each project will count as a test grade.
4. **Class Participation:** Math is not a spectator sport. You will be expected to actively and constructively participate in class. Your class participation grade will be 20% of your grade.
5. **Homework:** Homework is collected and given a $\checkmark+$, \checkmark , or $\checkmark-$ based on effort. Homework not turned in is counted as a zero. Your homework grade counts as 25% of your grade.