

Algebra 8th Grade Course Expectations

Teacher: Mr. Ventimiglia {Mr. V}

Email: ventimigliak@tantasqua.org

Room: C-206

Text: Algebra 1 Structure and Method

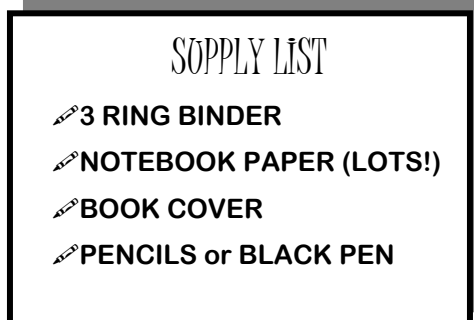
Website: www.mrvmath.com

So, you want to do well this year in math? Had difficulties in the past? Not your favorite subject? Of course, no one would expect you to like a subject you do not do well in! However, everything is up to you this year! If you put in the effort each day, pay attention in class, take neat, organized, and complete notes, study and complete homework each day it is assigned, and study for exams and quizzes, you will be successful in math and you may even enjoy the class! Once you stop preparing for class each day, you will fall behind, struggle understanding the material, and do poorly on tests and quizzes. And because math builds upon material already learned, once you fall behind you will have to work twice as hard to catch up! It's a lot easier to stay current with the material! Below are the things that you need to keep in mind to have a great year. Keep this paper handy in your notebook to review to make sure you are doing all that you can to have a great year! Good luck!

SUPPLY LIST: You will be expected to have and maintain a 3-ring binder with divisions and notebook paper in it. This notebook will be used to take notes, write and store homework assignments, and keep graded tests and quizzes, and handouts. You may use pencil or a pen (blue or black ONLY) to do your work. It needs to be without cross-outs and smudges. In addition, you must keep your textbook covered at all times. Leave your textbook at home. You will use it mostly for homework assignments; I will let you know if you will need to bring it to class.

Organize your math notebook with the following sections:

- **Notes:** You will be expected to take notes in class, keeping them organized in the notebook. Make sure they are complete and make sense to you! Do not copy down things you don't understand! They will not help you when you review. Don't forget to include examples put on the board. This is where quiz and test problems can come from!
- **Quizzes/Tests:** All quizzes and tests will be returned so that you can use them to review for future quizzes and tests, except the Mid-term and Final Exams.
- **Handouts/Homework:** Any material provided as homework or handouts should be kept organized for future reference.



*This notebook will be collected at least once a quarter and reviewed for completeness, organization, and neatness.

Calculators: Calculators have a purpose and are useful at the right time. They also are over used and inefficient a lot of the time. As a result, we will use them only when it is appropriate. We will be utilizing TI-84 graphic calculators extensively this year to investigate some difficult algebra concepts. The school will provide you with these calculators to use during class time and extra help.

Quizzes: There will be a weekly quiz every Friday. The material covered will come from the week's work as well as review problems from previous quizzes/tests/handouts/homework.

Tests: Tests will be given approximately 2-3 times per quarter covering major sections or chapters. Use past quizzes and homework problems to study for tests.

Homework: Homework will be assigned approximately 3-4 times per week. It will be reviewed the next day in class and should be kept in the notebook. Homework needs to show original problems, work, and answers organized neatly. Make sure to write the page number and problems at the top of the page, as well as your name and block. To review the homework guidelines, go to www.mrvmath.com

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Homework is going to be a challenge at times. I encourage you NOT to get any assistance with your homework. A great deal of learning can happen through your own struggles. Come in with questions and your attempts written down the next day even if you can not come up with answers. Credit will not be taken away, as long as you make attempts and show me what you were trying to do. Problems left blank will not receive credit.

In addition, once every chapter, there will be a quiz given covering ONLY homework assignments. Students will be expected to use their past homework to complete these quizzes. As a result, it is important to save all homework for the chapter as well as make sure it has been corrected!

Absences: If you are absent, assignments can be obtained either by checking the Internet website for the class: www.mrvmath.com or checking the agenda book kept on Mr. V's desk before or after the class. Any handouts can be picked up from the paper rack or, in some cases, downloaded from the website. Any homework that should be turned in should be put in the folder next to my desk. If you are going to miss multiple days during the school year because of trips or vacations, it is your responsibility to get the homework during your absence and turn it in when you return. Homework and classwork can not be provided in advance because the assignments are based upon the day to day progress of each class. Any missed quizzes must be made up within 2 days of your return.

Missed quizzes/tests: If you miss a quiz or test, a make-up will be given on the day you return. In the case of extended planned absences due to sickness, a suitable day for make-up will be determined between the teacher and yourself.

Extra Help: Available every Tuesday after school or by appointment.

High School Credit: Students will have the option of receiving high school credit for the Algebra I course as an 8th grader. This allows the student to be placed in the Honors Algebra II course first semester as a 9th grader. To receive high school Algebra I credit, a student must achieve a "B" or higher.

High School Recommendation: Teacher recommendation for Honors Algebra II will be based upon a student achieving a cumulative grade of "B+" or higher, with further consideration for those students who earned an 85% or higher on the Final Exam.

Student Assessment:

80% Tests and Quizzes (Tests are twice the value of a quiz)

10% Homework

10% Notebook

100% Quarter Grade

There will be a Mid-Term and Final Exam, which are cumulative exams. They will also be used for determining 9th grade placement.

So, you want to do well in math??? You want that good grade? If you are willing to put forth the time to review and practice every day, you won't be disappointed!



" YOU THINK YOU DESERVE PARTIAL CREDIT??!"