Math 8

**Mrs. Cramer Hudson Falls Middle School**

You are here to learn math. I am here to help you learn it and to assess how well you have learned it (in other words, give you a grade). This document outlines my policies and procedures for Math 8. You are expected to know these policies and procedures.

**Daily Class**

There is no text book for this class. Therefore, it is crucial that you be in class, pay attention and take good, complete notes. My expectations are that you will:

**Be on time.** I try to start class on time; if you are late you may miss important material. If you must be late, bring a pass, turn in your homework, and take your seat quietly without disrupting the class.

**Come to class prepared.** Bring you notes, a pen or pencil, and your completed homework. Have your pen or pencil at hand and your notes open to the right page so you don’t have to waste time getting organized when class begins.

**Pay attention and take notes**. Your notes serve as the “text” for the class; without your notes you will have nothing to refer to while doing your homework and nothing to help you review for quizzes and tests. It is critically important that you take the notes completely and accurately. However, just mindlessly writing down everything I write is not good note taking. For the notes to be really helpful to you later, you need to *think* about them while you’re taking them and *listen* to my explanations while I give them. Do not allow yourself to get distracted and do not distract others who are trying to learn.

**Get notes missed during absences.** Attendance is *important*. You miss *a lot* when you are not in class. However, sometimes an absence is unavoidable. After an absence, you are responsible for getting and understanding the notes you missed. You should get the notes from a friend who was in class and takes good notes. Because you will have missed the oral explanations that go with the notes, it is doubly important that you *think* about them as your write them. If you don’t understand something, ask your friend to explain it.

**Use your time productively**. I expect you to use time available in math class to do math. Usually, that means getting started on your math homework. Do not spend math time doing homework for other subjects.

**Behave appropriately.** You should already know proper behavior. In general, you should treat both people and property (your own, other people’s and the school’s) with respect

**Clean up after yourself.** Trash belongs in the trash can, not on your desk or the floor.

**Grading Policy:**

Your grade will be based on homework, quizzes, and tests. **Remember a grade is earned and is based largely on the amount of effort you put into this class.**

**Homework:**

If you want to be a good (fill in your favorite sport) player, it helps to listen to the coach and to watch good players play the game. But you can listen and watch for hours and you won’t be any good at the game unless you get out on the field/court and practice it yourself. The same is true of math. You should definitely listen, take notes and watch me do lots of examples. But you won’t really know the material until you practice it yourself. That is the purpose of homework. It is rare for someone who really does daily homework to fail the course; it is fairly common for people who don’t do daily homework to fail. My homework policies are as follows. Homework should:

**Be on time.** Homework is due at the *beginning* of the period. If you have questions you want to ask about in class, make a note of them on your assignment sheet but turn your homework in on time. Late homework turned in before the unit test will get a reduced grade. *Homework will not be accepted after the unit test.* If you are absent, the homework that was due on the day of your absence is due the first day you return (with a note on it reminding me you were absent). Homework assigned on the day you were absent is due the day following your return. (Exceptions may be made for multiple absences.)

**Be complete.** All problems are expected to be done. Some of the problems will not be just like the ones in the notes; they are intended to make you *think*. Do not skip a problem simply because it looks hard, it has a lot of words or the solution does not instantly pop into your head the first time you read it. *THINK*.

**Follow directions.** It is true that most math problems can be done correctly in a variety of different ways. However, the homework assignments are usually trying to help you practice some particular skills. If the problem says “solve graphically” and you solve it algebraically, you have not practiced the intended skill.

**Show all work.** An important part of Math is learning to communicate effectively *why* certain things must be true. This usually requires written work. The work may consist of diagrams, formulas, written justifications or algebra. For such problems, a simple answer with no work will not receive credit.

**Be neat.** Problems should be numbered clearly. All work should be organized and easily legible. *If I can’t read it, I assume it’s wrong*. Answers should be easy to find and clearly indicated. If homework takes more than one page, the pages should be neatly *stapled* together.

**Be your own.** Nobody learns anything by copying another person’s homework; it is a waste of time. Do your own work. Blatantly copied homework will not receive credit.

**Be in dark pen or pencil but NOT RED.**

**Be kept after you get it back.** Every marking period, about 2000 grades go from students’ papers into my gradebook and then from my gradebook into my computer. Mistakes happen. The only way I know if you did an assignment is if it’s marked in my gradebook or if you can *show* me the original graded assignment. So keep your returned assignments until you *know* they have made it into the computer. “I know I did it but I threw it away/lost it/can’t find it” is not worth any points.

Homework will be assigned every night and checked each day. You will receive a grade determined by the following scale:

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| --- |
| **Homework Grades**  Most homework assignments will be graded on a scale of 0 to 5. Occasionally, I may grade an assignment on a scale of 0 to 10; in effect, those assignments count double. Homework may be graded on any or all of the following:  **Timeliness.** Homework is due *at the beginning* of the period. Late homework will receive a reduced grade: homework one day late will receive no more than a 4 (or an 8 on 10-point assignments). Homework more than one day late but before the unit test will receive no more than a 3 (or a 6) .Homework ***will not be accepted after the unit test***.  **Completeness.** All problems are expected to be done.  **Accuracy of work and answers.** In math, both the *process* (how you get your answer) and the *result* (what you get) are important.If your method is *wrong*, you should not expect credit just because your answer is “right.”If many of your answers are wrong, you should *not* expect full credit just because you “tried” them.    **Following directions.** Failure to follow directions will usually result in lost credit. |

You will be required to stay after school on the day an assignment is due if it is not turned in.

**Tests and Quizzes:**

Quizzes will be given frequently to test understanding of the material. Notice for quizzes will be given at least one day in advance.

Homework quizzes may be given at any time to check completion of homework.

Unit tests will be given at the end of each unit. At least two days notice will be given for each test. This is a large percentage of your grade, so you must study appropriately. If you feel anxious about an upcoming test, please seek extra help immediately.

If you are absent the day of a test, you are expected to make it up the day that you return.

**Cheating:**

Cheating in any manner will result in an automatic zero and administrative action.

**Extra Help**

Math 8 can be a challenging course. Even students who have always done well in math are likely to find parts of the course difficult. If you find yourself having trouble with the material, don’t just hope it will go away or that some miracle of understanding will suddenly strike. ***Get help*.** Some options are:

**Ask a friend**. Most of you know someone who is good at math. Ask them for help. Just remember that your goal isn’t simply to get the answer; your goal is to *understand how* to get the answer. If you ask a friend “What’s the answer to number 5?” you are asking the wrong question and if she simply tells you the answer she hasn’t really helped you.

**Ask me.** You can try to get help during class but remember: there are many of you and only one of me and we have a limited amount of class time. If you have a study hall that matches a period when I have no class, you can ask for a pass to come in then. Or you can come in after school.

**Ask another math teacher.** Any of the high school math teachers will be happy to help you with your math. If you have a study hall with one of them, ask for help.

**Come in after school.** You should check with me during the day to make sure I don’t have some other commitment. You should be aware that if you decide to get all your extra help the day before the unit test, you will find that a dozen other students all had the same idea and no one will be able to get a lot of individual help.

**Sign up for Learning Center.** If you are really struggling in the course, talk to Guidance. It may be possible to sign up for Learning Center

**Get a book.** We do not have a text for this course. Your best reference is your own notes (but only if you have done a good job keeping up with them).

**Get a private tutor.** This is usually a last resort.

Whatever you do, try very hard not to let yourself get behind. Playing catch-up in this course is *not fun*.

**Some Class Rules and Expectations:**

1. Be respectful of the teacher and your classmates.
2. Be on time and ready to work.
3. Have homework and supplies daily. Write your name on every assignment!!
4. Do not skip class.
5. Ask questions and participate.
6. Get extra help when needed.
7. Do not copy or cheat.
8. Use proper language.
9. No Cell Phones or IPODS! **After one warning, they will be turned into the office.**

**To each parent or guardian,**

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of your child’s education. I ask for your help this year as they work to reach their highest potential in this math class. You can help me by checking to see that they are keeping organized, doing their homework, and getting additional help if necessary. Please let me know how I can help you. You can e-mail me at: **Jkreppel@hfcsd.org**

I look forward to working with you and your child this year. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything I can do.

In signing this I agree that I have read all of the rules and know what is expected of me. I agree to try my best, follow all rules, and accept all consequences. I understand that to be successful I must follow all of the rules and guidelines.

Student Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent e-mail address:**

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Is there anything you would like to tell me about your child at this time?

**A little Information About You (Student)**

**Student Email Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

How did you do in Math last year and how did you like it?

Important information about you (how do you learn best, best place for you to sit, etc):

At least one interesting fact about you: