



Mathematics - Pre Algebra Mrs. Forst - (2016 - 2017)

Teaching Philosophy:

I believe that the primary goal for any teacher, at any grade level, in any discipline, is to help foster the joy of learning. We need to equip our students with the necessary tools to think, reason, communicate and plan. When we, as educators, are successful in this task, we have not taught them a single isolated concept, or idea; but rather, how to make connections and discoveries for life.

In the area of teaching mathematics, I believe that we need to give students a variety of ways to learn mathematical concepts, and make connections. It is crucial that we, as educators, give ample opportunities for our students to use their God-given problem-solving skills, to work cooperatively, to communicate mathematically, and support their findings, based on mathematical patterns, and the discovery of those patterns. Allowing students to discover underlying mathematical concepts gives them ownership of the idea, and they not only retain for the short term, but for life.

Contact Information:

Mrs. Sharon Forst -- St. Martin's School

452 - 6928 (School) until 4:30 p.m.

474 - 9597 (Home) until 8:30 p.m.

E-Mail Addresses: sharon.forst@stmartinswinona.org

Grading and Assessment Criteria:

The assessments used in Pre-Algebra are made up of the following components:

PORTFOLIO - You will be required to have all information for the class, and all work kept in a separate three-ring notebook for mathematics. This will serve as your portfolio. At the end of every quarter, it will be collected and graded for the organization and contents of the portfolio. The items cited below are some of the components of the portfolio. **(10% of final grade)**

HOMEWORK QUIZZES - At the end of every week, you will be taking a homework quiz based on the daily assignments given throughout the week. Daily assignments will be checked, and you will have an opportunity to make corrections, ask questions and rework your mistakes PRIOR to the taking of the homework quiz. The questions on the homework quiz are the same as the daily work. This grading structure is designed to help you understand errors, practice your skills, and learn some organization skills along the way. All assignments are to be kept, and organized, in your portfolio. **(25% of final grade)**

SKILL QUIZZES - Throughout the quarter, you will be taking a "skill quiz" to measure your advancement in skill knowledge. It is designed to reinforce mental math skills, and revisit the basic mathematical skills that we are building on throughout the year. If you receive a perfect 100 on the skill quiz, you will "earn" the next two skill quizzes off and a grade of "100", and a 95 on the skill quiz will "earn" one skill quiz off, with a grade of 95. These are not only

designed to reinforce basic skills, but also the necessity to check and organize your work. **(10% of final grade)**

CHAPTER QUIZZES AND TESTS - Quizzes will be given based on content material presented in class, or in the text. Calculator usage is at the discretion of the teacher. Tests are given at the end of a unit, with a practice test given the day prior to the actual test. **(25% of final grade - Chapter Quizzes and 30% of final grade are tests)**

LATE AND INCOMPLETE WORK:

Mathematics is a skill-building process that students can only get better at through daily practice. Homework will be given daily, or almost daily, and should not involve more than a 20 to 25 minute time investment outside of class. If you find you are spending more time than this working on your mathematics, please notify me and we will analyze the situation.

LATE AND INCOMPLETE Work is handled in the same manner. Incomplete work will be collected from you at the beginning of class, and given back to you at the end of class for you to complete on your own. It will then become your responsibility to make corrections before the homework quiz is given. A 10% grade reduction on the homework quiz for every incomplete or late assignment the homework quiz is measuring will result.

EXTRA CREDIT:

Extra Credit is not offered.

DAILY PLANNER:

I will ask you to record your assignments in your daily planner. Assignments will also be posted on the daily assignment board in the classroom. The planner will be used to communicate concerns, suggestions, and improvements for each of you. Please have your parents check the planner daily.

ABSENCES:

If you are absent, your parent(s) needs to report your absence to the office. I then will be aware of the absence. Make-up work will be sent home, with information on the specific assignment. Make-up work will follow school guidelines - one day of extra time for every day absent.

I am looking forward to a great year with each of you. I hope to foster the joy of learning mathematics within each of you- may God bless all of us on this journey through your school life.