

Dunbar Creative and Performing Arts Magnet School
Course Syllabus – MCPSS Math 8/Algebra 1

Course Information

Course: MCPSS Math 8/Algebra 1 and Math 8/Algebra 1 Advanced

Grading Period: 1st Quarter

Class Location: Room C5

E-Mail: jwrice@mcpss.com

Teacher Information

Name: Mr. Rice

Phone: 221-2160

Conference Hours: 1:30- 2:30 by appointment

Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome to another great year at Dunbar! While we are all beginning the year in an unfamiliar way that will likely have its share of challenges, I am still excited about the opportunity to teach your child. I hope to not only develop their math skills, but also develop a genuine interest in math through my approach. Below, you will find information about what we will be learning about this year as well as expectations regarding preparedness and behavior in class.

Thanks,

Mr. John Rice

Course Description:

This course will prepare students for the mathematics to come in the high school curriculum. It involves the study of algebraic and geometric concepts/skills and their connections to previously learned concepts/skills going back to kindergarten.

Online Learning Supplies/Resources:

Students will need the following items to complete any online coursework:

- A laptop with Google Chrome as a browser option
- Pencils
- Paper
- Calculator
- Headphones or earbuds that are compatible with the laptop

**Please note, these things will likely be used in class daily once in-person instruction resumes.

In-Person Class Supplies/Resources:

Students are expected to have the following items in class ***every day*** in order to be prepared for class and participate fully:

- Composition Book for journaling (used instead of binders or folders in class)
- Pencils/Pens
- Paper
- Graph Paper
- Calculator
- Glue Sticks
- Dry Erase Markers
- Colored Pencils/Crayons/Markers
- Math textbook

Students will be using a variety of resources this school year as part of math class. Schoology is our learning management system and Ready Classroom Math is our primary curriculum resource. Individual textbooks, class sets of Mathematics workbooks, electronic documents, teacher-created content, manipulatives, and web-based resources will be used to deliver/supplement instruction when we physically return to the classroom.

Course Competencies/ Learning Objectives

Students who *successfully* complete the 1st quarter of this class will be competent in the following areas:

- Understanding rigid transformations of polygons in the coordinate plane and their properties.
- Working with single rigid transformations in the coordinate plane.
- Working with sequences of transformations and proving congruence.
- Identifying similarity between polygons.
- Graphing proportional and linear relationships.

Student Evaluation:

The grading system for 1st quarter- This has been set by MCPSS and is as follows:

Major Grades (Tests/major assessment of learning) - 60%

** Students scoring below a 70% will be allowed ONE re-test per quarter per MCPSS

Minor Grades (Quizzes, formative assessments of learning, weekly class assignments, etc.) - 40%

**** Teachers may have no more than two 40% grades per week in the gradebook. The final 40% grade of the quarter can be a cumulative homework/bell ringer/notebook that reflects a student's average for those things for the entire quarter.**

Attendance Policy

Regular and prompt class attendance is an essential part of the educational experience. Students will accept full responsibility for ensuring their work does not suffer because of absences. All students are expected to attend every scheduled class on time. Exceptions may be made for illness and valid emergencies. If you are absent for any reason, it is YOUR responsibility to make up the assignments and/or tests when you return. Any work not turned in will be noted as a "1" in the gradebook as a reminder. It is also YOUR responsibility to set up a "catch-up" session on missed work from your absences.

Methodology

A combination of cooperative learning, problem-based learning, class discussion, presentations, and videos will be used in this course. Grades will be determined by the satisfactory and timely completion of assignments. The grade of each assignment is based on the prerequisite given for each assignment. Below is an overview of topic/ units and major assessments/assignments for this course. **Please note dates/timeframes are subject to change and are an estimate.**

Unit/ Topic	Course Activities	Assessments	Month/ Timeframe
<i>School Year Kick-off/ “Week of iMath” activities</i>	<i>Expectations/procedures review, Week of iMath activities, Unit Pre-Test</i>	<i>Unit Pre-Test/Ready screening</i>	<i>Aug. 6 - 10</i>
<i>Linear & Multi-Step Equations/Functions/Slope “Thinking with Mathematical Models”</i>	<i>Small Group Investigations, Individual Math Reflections and Problems</i>	<i>Partner Quizzes, Individual Check Ups, Unit Tests</i>	<i>Aug. 12 – Sept. 13</i>
<i>Pythagorean Theorem/Exponents “Looking for Pythagoras”</i>	<i>Small Group Investigations, Individual Math Reflections and Problems</i>	<i>Partner Quizzes, Individual Check Ups, Unit Tests</i>	<i>Sept. 16 – Oct.4</i>
<i>1st Quarter EQTs</i>	<i>EQTs</i>	<i>End of Quarter Test</i>	<i>Week of Oct. 7</i>

Class Rules:

. Class rules provide a framework for student behaviors within day-to-day activities and lessons. These rules along with the Dunbar Magnet School/MCPSS code of conduct will be enforced.

1. *Respect yourself, all others, and school property - both physically and verbally.*
2. *Speak in a reasonable tone using appropriate language.*
3. *Be on time and prepared for class daily.*
4. *Use electronic devices ONLY when directed by the teacher for class activities.*
5. *Follow all other DMS guidelines as agreed upon in your school compact/contract.*

Consequences (unless offenses call for escalated response/immediate action based on MCPSS code of conduct):

1. *Verbal Warning/Correction (ONE warning) for interruption of instruction/activities, uniform violations, or other inappropriate behavior.*
2. *Demerit issued on next occurrence (or third occurrence for tardiness to class). All demerits fall under DMS policy with every three demerits resulting in a disciplinary action.*
3. *After school detention held by the teacher.*
4. *Impermissible use of electronic devices follows the BYOD policy set forth by administration and will include a 24-hour (or 48 hour if on a Friday) hold on the device in question. It may only be picked up by a parent or guardian.*

*** Again, these are for minor but consistent discipline issues. Please refer to the MCPSS code of conduct for more severe infractions.*

By signing below, you acknowledge that you have read and understand any guidelines set forth above in addition to the roles they play in conducting a safe, fair learning environment.

Parent Signature and Date

Student Signature and Date