**Pre-Algebra Syllabus**

**Course Contact Information**

INSTRUCTOR: Mrs. Jennifer Lewis

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Individual Tutoring Available during Study Hall or after school by appointment.

**Course Description:**

In this course students will develop an understanding of expressions, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations. Students will also develop an understanding of the concept of a function and use functions to describe quantitative relationships. Students will analyze two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. Students will also develop an understanding of irrational numbers.

**Materials Needed:**

* A Binder for notes/handouts
* A notebook or loose-leaf paper for additional notes and homework
* Writing utensils
* A red pen (for self-correcting)
* A calculator: eventually students will need a TI 83 plus or TI 84 Plus Graphing Calculator

***WHAT? I NEED A CALCULATOR??***

You will need this calculator for future classes, for the ACT and for the SAT. It is in your best interest to start getting used to using it now and learn to use it to solve problems, but right now any calculator will do.

**Grading Policy**

Daily work/Participation/Understanding Checks 15%  
 Assessments 65%

Final 20%

Assessments will be brief(ish) quizzes over only a few skills/objectives. Students will receive an individual score for each skill assessed. Students are encouraged to retest on an objective if their assessed proficiency level is not yet what they want it to be. There will be one opportunity to reassess in class, and any further reassessments for that objective may be scheduled during study hall or office hours.

This grading system is developed with the philosophy that not everyone learns math at the same speed, and students should have the opportunity to keep learning and improving their skills in mathematics throughout the trimester. Grading based on objectives instead of chapters or units allows for a clearer picture of where strengths and weaknesses are and provides ample opportunity to turn those weaknesses or struggles into strengths.

All objectives will be graded out of 10 points using the following rubric.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Score out of 10 on the objective** | **What it means** |
| 0    (Missing) | **Incomplete** – student has not provided evidence to assess proficiency |
| 5      (50%) | **Not Yet** – Student has provided evidence, but does not yet demonstrated understanding of the skill/concept |
| 6      (60%) | **Emerging** – Student has shown an emerging understanding of the skill/concept |
| 7      (70%) | **Partially Proficient** – Student has shown a basic understanding of the skill/concept |
| 8       (85%) | **Proficient** – student has displayed an understanding the skill/concept |
| 9      (90%) | **Advanced** – Student has displayed fluent understanding of the skill/concept |
| 10      (100%) | **Mastery**- Student has displayed consistent and advanced understanding of the skill/concept |

To have a 10 on any skill a student must have completed a challenge problem (if offered) or have scored a 9 on the objective **two different times.** This is to ensure that students have an enduring understanding of the topic and continue to refresh or reinforce their skills.

**Reassessing**

If you want to reassess a skill outside of class, you will need to demonstrate that you have worked on the material in some way outside of class. This can include coming in for office hours, doing review problems or doing error analysis on a previous quiz. You may only schedule one objective per day for reassessment.  The highest score a student has earned on a skill will be honored.

**Tutoring**

Students are encouraged to seek help during study hall or after school tutoring appointments as soon as a problem or challenge with material arises. Math builds on itself and so it is imperative that confusion be eliminated as quickly as possible.

**Classroom Expectations**

Students are expected to always follow the Code of Conduct. This is to create a positive learning environment for all present in the classroom.

Students are expected to:

* **Be Respectful and Compassionate** (Speak and act with respect toward the instructor, and other students. Be respectful of the physical environment and learning environment).
* **Be Responsible** (Have assignments prepared for class. Bring materials to class every day, be in class and prepared to work at the beginning of class.)
* **Have Strong Work Ethic and Self Reliance** (Do work thoroughly; be on task. Work problems on your own to the best of your ability, then ask for help when you need it)

If a student is making choices that are outside the Code of Conduct and/or are disruptions to the learning environment, they can be asked to leave the environment per the Family Handbook.

**Attendance Policy**

Attendance and consistency are keys to success in math. The attendance policies are those presented in the Family Handbook:

 "Students who are absent on the day a short term assignment is given will be allowed an extra day to do the assignment. If a student is absent for two or more consecutive days, he/she will be given as many extra days to do the assignment as he/she was consecutively absent, counting from the day the assignment was given.... Students who are absent on a day they have a test in a class will take the test on the first day they return to school. Students who take a test later than the rest of the class can expect to receive a different test than the one the rest of the class took. Students who are unexcused tardy to a test (including finals) will not be given extended time to complete the test " (36-37).

"Students who are late to class for good cause must have a written pass from the teacher or staff member with whom they were working before they were late. Every unexcused tardy to class will receive a tardy ticket. No pass =unexcused tardy ticket = super lunch. " (20).

Students who have been absent are expected to show Responsibility and Self Reliance and seek out what work they have missed. The instructor will not keep track of your missed or missing work for you.

**Academic Integrity**

"Academic dishonesty is considered extremely serious and will result in a felony ticket, parental contact and disciplinary action, and may result in suspension or expulsion.  Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to plagiarism, cheating, forbidden homework collaboration, etc.  With respect to disciplinary consequences, no distinction is made between students who get the answers from other students inappropriately and students who provide answers to other students inappropriately.." (Family Handbook, 23)