

September 2011

Mrs. Boyer's 7th Grade Math

RESPONSIBLE RAPTORS



Welcome to a New School Year

Welcome

I would like to welcome you to a new and exciting school year. My name is Mrs. Boyer. I teach 7th grade math. I believe that communication between home and school is essential for your student's success. Please feel free to contact me at any time regarding your student's progress. My e-mail address is mboyer@lindenschools.org, and phone number is 591-0757.

Instruction

Math concepts will be presented by teacher demonstration and instruction, practice assignments, class notes, and in-class activities. Students are always allowed and will be given the opportunity to ask questions on all practice assignments before and after they are corrected. Most lessons will include taking notes, as well as related activities. I am available before and after school for extra help and to answer questions.

Materials

- 10 — 3-ring paper folders with pockets.
- Pencils



Math Books

There are some awesome features in our math texts that I would like to share with you that will help your child succeed this year. The book company has websites designed to help students. Please visit the following site:

- 7TH GRADE MATH www.msmath3.net.

You will find the following helpful:

- Extra Examples
- Practice Quizzes
- Vocabulary Reviews
- Practice Tests
- Personal Tutor

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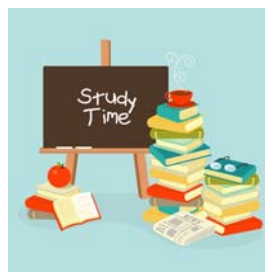
Other Notes:

- My **door is always open**. I am here for the students and am committed to helping them succeed.
- Students are responsible for bringing their planners to class everyday. They will not be allowed to leave the room without them.
- Please bring in Kleenex for our classroom.



Expectations

- Students are expected to **be respectful** to themselves and others.
- Students are expected to **be honest** and truthful.
- Students must **come prepared** to class each day. They must have a pencil (no pens), folder/binder, and book. Extra materials will not be handed out during class.
- **Complete all practice work** before class. It is due at the beginning of the hour.
- Students must **actively participate** in class.



This means taking notes, and trying sample problems.

- **Students must ask questions** when clarification is needed.
- **Put forth a good effort** on all work, both in class and out.
- **Prepare for summative assessments** by studying and practicing problems.
- **Accept consequences** that come from making poor choices and **make the changes necessary to prevent it from happening again** (talk to the teacher if necessary).

Attendance

Regular attendance is vitally important! Many activities are of a participatory nature and therefore absences can be particularly disruptive to the progression of a student's learning. **Lectures, note-taking, films, demonstrations, cooperative learning activities, and class discussions are difficult, and frequently impossible for a student to "make-up."** I sincerely urge you and your child to make every effort to schedule appointments, vacations, social events, etc. at a time which will not conflict with regular school attendance.

Classroom

Management

I believe each child is in-charge of their own self and responsible for making their own choices. I am here to help students make the best choices possible. In order for that to happen, the following rules must be followed:

- **Be prepared everyday.**
- **Respect others and yourself.**
- **Follow instructions.**

If a student chooses to break a rule, they will be asked to correct the behavior. If they are unable to do that, they will be referred to the Interim room as outlined in the student handbook. Severe disruptions will result in immediate referral to the office.

Cheating

Students will correct their homework every day in class. Students must honestly correct their assignment. **If a student is caught, in any way, being dishonest the feedback they receive will not be accurate.** It is important to me, and especially your student, that they receive accurate feedback so they are able to make the necessary adjustments to their assignment in order to learn the material correctly.

"A Classroom, like a garden, needs constant care and nurturing to produce beautiful and steady growth."

Grading Policy

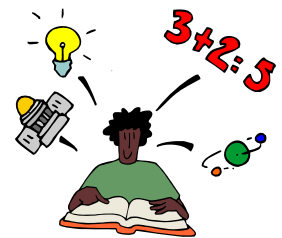
Work in this course will be divided into two categories: formative assessment and summative assessment. The purpose of **formative assessments** is to provide immediate feedback for the student, parent and teacher regarding student understanding of material and will include such items as homework assignments, in-class ac-

tivities, and teacher observation. *The student may redo formative assessments during the unit in which they were assigned. However, formative assessments will not be used to determine a student's grade.* Prior to submission, students will assess their performance on any **formative assessment** using the scale below:

Level	Description	Kid-Friendly Description
4	Student has demonstrated mastery of the learning objective(s)	I get it! I made few, if any, (small) mistakes. I can answer questions and help others.
3	Student has demonstrated an understanding of the learning objective(s), but has made some minor mistakes that inhibit mastery	I've almost got it! I can easily fix my mistakes. I can mostly answer questions about the problems.
2	Student has demonstrated minor understanding of the learning objective(s) and has made some major mistakes. Student is in need of corrective action (additional help from the teacher, from another student, from a tutor)	I found the problems hard to do. I needed some help to complete the assignment. With help I can fix my mistakes.
1	Student doesn't understand the learning objective(s) and needs corrective action	I did not understand how to do the assignment. I need help to redo the problems and fix my mistakes.

The purpose of **summative assessments** is for the student to be able to demonstrate learning in a more controlled environment and will be the basis for formal grades. Summative assessments may include traditional paper/pencil tests, quizzes, projects, presentations, and teacher observation. Summative assessments will be marked with a grade letter (A, B, ...) or per-

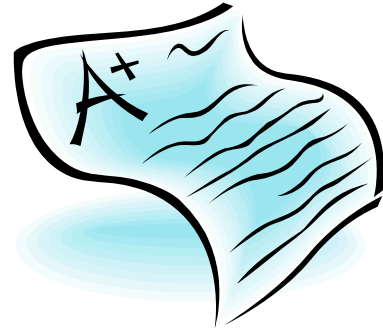
centage. Because summative assessments will be the basis for formal grades, and because student learning occurs at different rates, students may retry any summative assessment before or after school within two weeks of the date the assessment was returned. **In order to retry an assessment, all practice work for the unit must have been successfully completed.** *The trimester tests are the exception and are not available for retest.*



Make sure to spend time each night reviewing and

Grades

Grades given will reflect only what the student has demonstrated that they know and can do on summative assessments. They will not include other factors such as attendance, notes, etc. However, the amount of effort given on assignments, the number of assignments (formative assessments) completed in a timely manner, etc., all play a critical role in a student's performance on summative assessments. Good work and study habits are critical to success in this math class.



Grade Scale with Descriptors

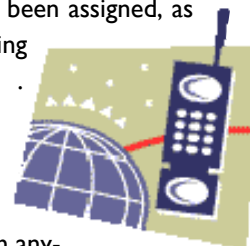
Letter	Description	Kid-Friendly Description
A	Student has demonstrated a mastery of at least 90% of the learning objectives from the marking period. Mistakes made were minor and do not detract from the overall understanding of the concepts presented.	I get it! I can easily help others to understand the ideas. I can solve problems with little difficulty.
B	Student has demonstrated a mastery of 80-90% of the learning objectives from the marking period. Most mistakes made were minor.	I get most things we've done. Most of the time I can help others. Sometimes I make some mistakes.
C	Student has demonstrated a mastery of 70-80% of the learning objectives from the marking period. Some major mistakes were made and/or misunderstandings exist. The student is encouraged to seek additional help from the teacher or a tutor.	I think I get most of it, but it is hard for me to complete a problem without making a mistake. I do better when I have some help.
D	Student has demonstrated a mastery of 60-70% of the learning objectives from the marking period. Many major mistakes were made and/or misunderstandings exist. The student is clearly working below grade level. Additional help from the teacher or tutor is necessary for success.	I'm not really sure of what to do when working on problems. I get things confused easily. I need help to start/finish problems.
E	Student clearly does not understand the learning objectives and is unable to work through tasks at grade level. Student is in need of corrective action in the form of additional help from the teacher or a tutor. It is highly recommended that the parent and student contact the teacher in order to determine a plan of action.	When I do problems, I usually guess because I'm not sure what to do. I have a hard time with math vocabulary. I need help to try problems.

Math Folders

Students will have one folder for each unit we will be studying (which is why they need 10). The folder will include all practice assignments for that unit, a vocabulary worksheet, and a formative assessment grading sheet. Students are encouraged to complete all practice assignments to help them learn the material in order to perform well on their summative assessments. Students who wish to retry a summative assessment must complete all practice problems for the learning targets that are included on that assessment. **Each assignment will be corrected the day after it is assigned.** Students are welcome to redo any assignment during the unit in which it was assigned.

Communication

- ◆ I will post assignments on Parentweb daily. This gives parents the opportunity to see what has been assigned, as well as any upcoming tests.
- ◆ Grades will be available on-line at www.webgrader.com any-time you would like an update of your student's progress. Please make sure that you have a log-in and password for this program. Both can be given to you from the main office.



- ◆ I will also send out e-mail messages several different times throughout the year. E-mail is a very efficient and convenient way for parents and teachers to keep in contact. I think that communication between parents and teachers is extremely important in helping students succeed.

Parent Signature

I have read and understand this information, including the following:

- ◆ Extra examples, practice quizzes/tests are available online to help my child.
- ◆ I can access Parentweb to see class announcements/assignments.
- ◆ I can access my student’s grade on Web Grader for an update of my student’s progress.
- ◆ Materials for class need to be brought to school this week.
- ◆ All work must be completed before retry tests are taken.

X _____

Parent Signature

E-mail Address

I would like to be contacted by e-mail about my child’s classes and progress.

(Please clearly print your e-mail address on the line)

(Student’s Name)