



## **GRADING POLICY**

Group Work	20%
Assignments	30%
Quizzes/Tests	50%

In regard to grading, students will have ample opportunities to achieve 100% on homework, assignments, and tests. Students will have the chance to correct work and tests to achieve better grades. A completed assignment, regardless of accuracy, achieves task completion grades, and then the student is expected to correct the work to 100% correct for full credit.

## **GROUP WORK**

Group work will consist of team and partner activities and group challenge problems. There are some partner quizzes, which require teamwork, but no team tests. Grading is based on the group's work, not the individual's.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

Assignments will consist of warm-ups, classwork and homework. Most work is lined up in the weekly stamp sheet (the assignment record sheet-ARS). The ARS is clear about when work is due and when it will be checked in. Classwork and homework will be assigned most class days and will be **due the following day** unless otherwise specified on the ARS. Points for assignments will be based on completeness, effort, and work shown, using the following guidelines:

- 5 points – Assignment is complete
- 4 points – Assignment is nearly complete and shows good effort.
- 3, 2, 1 points – Assignment is less than half done, showing some effort.
- 0 points – Assignment is not attempted or shows little effort.

### **More about homework...**

- Homework assignments should be completed on time to avoid the snowball effect.
- If a student is absent when an assignment is due, the student is responsible for getting all missed work and completing it in a timely manner.
- Consider using 7<sup>th</sup> period offered by classroom teachers or in the library. This program offers homework help after school, and students can take the activity bus home at the conclusion of 7<sup>th</sup> period (this is an also an amazing resource for social studies, science, language arts, etc.)

## **LATE WORK POLICY**

Assignments are given because they are deemed valuable to student learning. Students need to do their best to keep up with the coursework, as the next concepts being presented usually require the concepts previously learned as stepping stones. Students need to contact me if they need assistance in keeping up with the assignments. I am available by email pretty much every afternoon and early mornings. Please let me know when you are having trouble or having a bad night!!

## **QUIZZES**

Quizzes are a great way of checking your understanding of the materials as we work through the unit. If you struggle with a quiz, make sure you seek help immediately!! Students must let the teacher know when they are struggling with a concept. Students will have the opportunity to retake tests and quizzes.

## **TESTS / EXAMS**

Comprehensive tests will be given at the end of each unit. A great way to review for a unit test is to look over your classwork and notes (this is why we keep your old homework in your notebook for reference). We almost always fill out a study guide together in class which looks and feels like the real test, so you have experience working the problem types you will encounter on the real test. Study this at home so you are ready for test day. You will have at least a week's notice before a big assessment.

## **PROGRESS REPORTS**

I will be providing paper progress reports (reports from Skyward Family Access) every few weeks, just so you can review what work is missing, and what assessments need to be retaken for a better grade. Grades will be updated on FAMILY ACCESS on a weekly basis. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK YOUR GRADES ON FAMILY ACCESS** regularly and make sure you are getting all your work turned in and doing your best to make up poor grades on tests, by correcting tests and quizzes. In addition to grade progress reports, I will send home IEP goal progress reports at end of each trimester.

## **TARDY POLICY**

To avoid being considered tardy, students must be in their seats and ready to work when the bell rings. Tardiness will be handled by Mr. McGowan, Mr. Stookey, and Mrs. Coffin.

## **FOOD AND DRINKS**

Food is not permitted in class unless students have specific dietary needs or I hand it out. Water in sealable containers is welcome. By the way, the healthier you eat, the better your brain works. Have breakfast before you come to school, and eat a healthy lunch and snack. Keep hydrated with water only in my classroom.

## **GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

Appropriate behavior is very important to everyone's learning and therefore important to me. If you make a poor choice once, we will talk about it. Two poor choices will bring the family into the discussion. More serious or repeated violations will be handled through the PCMS school discipline process.

## **CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

1. Students are free to act in ways that do not interfere with the learning or well-being of others.
2. I expect students to treat me with the same respect that I show to them.
3. I teach when there are no distractions or other problems.
4. I listen to students who raise their hands. I listen to one person at a time.
5. If a student causes a problem, I will ask him/her to solve it.
6. If a student cannot solve a problem he/she created, I will intervene and offer choices.
7. I expect students to use class time to work on math.
8. If class time is not optimized, there may be homework.

## **COMMUNICATION**

I value good communication between students, parents, and myself. I will make a concerted effort to inform parents of both positive and negative behaviors in my classroom. I am available through voicemail or email, although email is the most efficient way to contact me. I check email regularly, so let me know if there is anything I need to know about your child. Let me know if there is a situation that may arise at school that I can help with, or even celebrations that we can expound upon at school. I want to hear from parents.

## **HELPING YOUR CHILD**

- Go over the daily classwork and notes with your child (the assignment record sheet shows warm-up, classwork, and homework expectations for each day of the week)
- Check your child's planner.
- Check Family Access.
- Please don't give your child the answers. Encourage, prompt, and motivate. The purpose of homework is for your child to practice and use what he/she has learned in class. There are often videos that align with curriculum that we are covering in class, that improve understanding of class material.
- If your child is practicing a skill, have him/her tell you what steps are needed to complete it. Ask what steps are easy for him or her, and what steps are difficult and need practice.
- Practice basic math facts with your child (try Khan Academy, or MathDrills.com)

## **KIDS' FIRST ASSIGNMENT**

Please read over the syllabus with your parent or guardian. Fill out and sign the last page, and return it to Mrs. Cohen by **Friday, September 6th**. Binders will be checked **Friday, September 6th (this syllabus, your planner, dividers, all supplies, a calculator, and the notebook should all be with you that day)**. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns at any time during the year, I can be reached through the contact information given at the top of the syllabus. If you need assistance getting any of these supplies, just ask. I can get them for you. Thank you for taking the time to read through this syllabus. I am looking forward to working with you and your family this year!

Sincerely,  
Katie Cohen  
Pacific Cascade Middle School  
LRC-I Math Teacher

# Syllabus Review Confirmation Form

Student's Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

Mom's/Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Number \_\_\_\_\_ Work Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Dad's/Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Number \_\_\_\_\_ Work Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

\* Please STAR the BEST way for me to reach you, and let me know if both parents would each like a copy of messages I send home. Thanks!

Is there anything you want me to know about your child? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



Complete and turn in this form to Mrs. Cohen by **Friday, SEPTEMBER 6<sup>th</sup>**. Binders will be checked on **Friday, SEPTEMBER 6<sup>th</sup>**.