

**Mistakes are the
PROOF that
you are trying!**

Mrs. McKinney 8th Grade math

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Select staff websites then Dawn McKinney, then follow the links on the left hand side.

Welcome to a new and exciting school year! I am looking forward to working with each of you. This year, you will encounter new challenges as you prepare for high school. I am looking forward to an amazing year!

Description of Course

The 8th grade math class is based on Arizona's Career and College Readiness Standards and the Deer Valley Unified School District Curriculum. The curriculum includes the following domains: The Number System, Expressions and Equations, Functions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. The Standards for Mathematical Practice are embedded in all of the domains.

Suggested Materials

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3-ring binder (1.5 - 2 inch) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dry erase markers (2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pencils and erasers (lots for whole year) | <input type="checkbox"/> A pocket folder for handouts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loose leaf paper (lots for the whole year) | <input type="checkbox"/> Graph paper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calculator (TI-30X or similar) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wired headphones/earbuds | |

* Please let me know if you need assistance with any of these items. Arizona law requires public school to provide supplies required for academic success. This list represents optional, supplementary items which you may supply at your discretion.

Determining Quarter Grade and Final Grade

Your student's official grade will be in Power Schools, NOT Canvas. Grades will be determined on the students' cumulative earned points and weighted by category.

Grades will be based on the following:

70% - Assessments

30% - In Process Learning (assignments, learning tasks, quizzes)

The final (year-end grade) will be based on each of your grades from each of the 4 quarters and will follow the Deer Valley Unified School District's Promotion, Retention, Acceleration and Grading Handbook.

Classroom Environment

In order to be successful in learning 8th grade math concepts, students **MUST** engage in the learning activities whether in class or virtual. Engaging in your learning means: listening to the teacher and other students; attempting/trying to complete tasks; asking questions of the teacher and of other students; presenting your thinking to other students and the class; and taking risks. Do not be afraid to make mistakes...**THAT'S HOW LEARNING HAPPENS!** Disruptions to the learning environment are not acceptable and consequences will follow the school discipline policy.

In Process Learning

Practicing in math is essential for increasing and reinforcing student learning and achievement for course standards. Student participation is critical in order to receive specific feedback on how to improve and become successful in meeting course standards. In addition, to increase student achievement, practicing also provides the student opportunities to develop critical, independent, study skills and self-discipline for their own educational journey. In math, it is important to **show all work/steps when completing problems**. Doing this gives the teacher valuable information about levels of understanding and specifics on where a student needs help with his/her understanding. Not showing all work/steps may result in receiving partial credit. Feedback on assignments will be given in **Canvas** on each assignment and as announcements or messages to students. It is **IMPORTANT** that students read feedback on a daily basis.

All learning progression tasks that lead up to a test/assessment MUST be completed before the test. This means that the final due date for late work is before the unit/concept assessment.

Late Work

All learning progression tasks are expected on their assigned due dates. If students are absent on a date that an assignment was due, **the work is expected on the day of the student's return**. If a student is on campus, but not in class, the work must still be handed in on time. If a student is absent, the student will have 1 day for each absence to complete work that was assigned while absent. **Math concepts build upon each other and turning work in late could hinder students' learning of the concepts being taught**. This could mean a lower level of understanding the 8th grade math standards and lower performance on assessments. All late work must be completed before the unit assessment that goes with those learning progression tasks.

Absences

Students who are absent, are still responsible for the learning that occurs in class as well as any assignments that are missed. **Information about missed learning assignments will be available in Canvas under Modules by week**. You will find videos, notes, handouts and all of your practice assignments to complete.

If students are absent, he/she should complete the learning tasks and assignments missed and turn them in. Students must make up assessments missed due to an absence **within two weeks of the original assessment date**. Students should be scheduling and attending FLASH class to make up the assessment. If there are extenuating circumstances, please contact the teacher to make other arrangements.

***** Being absent does NOT exempt you from the learning or the assignments. *****

Please remember math concepts build upon each other and missing lessons taught by the teacher will make learning new concepts difficult and can affect your understanding of the math standards.

Plagiarism:

All work should be completed by the student. Any learning progression task and/or assessment that has been plagiarized (copied) from any source i.e. apps that give answers, other students, or the internet may receive consequences, such as detention and loss of credit. This includes getting answers from others off of social media applications. Turning in work that is NOT your own IS plagiarism.

Additional Help

Extra help is for students who **are engaging** in class learning activities but continue to struggle with specific math objectives. Make sure to always complete ALL assignments, even if they are difficult, and then ask for help in class and/or schedule and attend FLASH for additional help.

Assessments

Assessments must be completed the day they are given. The only exception is if the student misses the previous TWO days before the assessment. An absence the day before the assessment may not excuse the student from the assessment. In order to ensure mastery of concepts for which they did not demonstrate proficiency; students may be required to make corrections on assessments, may be required to complete alternate learning tasks/assignments, and/or meet with the teacher to explain misunderstandings. Then, they may take an alternate assessment. **A student MAY NOT retake an assessment without all learning progression tasks, that lead up to that assessment, being completed.**

Remember, mistakes are the proof that you are trying!
F A I L - First Attempt In Learning!

Cell Phone/Electronic Device Classroom Policy

Cell phones and technology are a large part of our world today. There are times that using cell phones/electronic devices are permitted during the school day and during class learning experiences at the discretion of the teacher. Cell phones/electronic devices are expected to be turned **OFF** upon entering the campus and are expected to be placed in the students' backpack. This includes ear-buds, air-pods, and head-phones. The only time a cell phone/electronic device should be out or in use is when the teacher has specifically stated that it may be used for educational purposes. If the cell phone policy is not followed, the following consequences may occur:

- 1) Verbal warning and documentation
- 2) Incident report and/or phone call to parent
- 3) Turned into office for student pick-up at the end of the school day
- 4) Turned into office - follow school discipline procedures for cell phones/electronic devices

Canvas (Deer Valleys Learning Management System)

Deer Valley USD uses Canvas to support the district's technology initiative. Designed specifically for K-12 teachers and students, Canvas is an easy-to-use, cloud-based learning management system (LMS) that connects all the digital tools and resources teachers use into one simple place. It integrates seamlessly with hundreds of apps, empowering teachers and students with countless tools to make teaching and learning easier and more engaging. The Canvas grade book is connected to our student information system, PowerSchool. Parents can create a Canvas parent account to observe progress, view grades and sign up to receive teacher announcements and notifications. Observers can link their Canvas account to their student's account so they can see assignment due dates, announcements, and other course content. Observers can view the course content but cannot participate in the course. When your student logs into Canvas, he/she should go to "account", then "settings", then "pair with observer" and this will give you a code where you can link your parent account to your student's account.

Students, when you are using Canvas, and other applications like Khan Academy, Quizizz to complete assignments, tasks, quizzes, assessments, etc. the teachers can see when you log in, how long you are logged in, what pages you are visiting, how long you are spending on those pages, and how long it takes you to answer each question on quizzes and assessments. Please be mindful of this as math should ALWAYS have work associated with each of the problems. Questions **SHOULD NOT** be taking 1 to 5 seconds to complete. If this is happening, then it is likely that you are guessing only, not showing work, and possibly plagiarizing by getting answers from other sources. Please remember that when you don't complete the learning on your own, you are **NOT** really learning and you are only cheating yourself from your education and learning. When you make mistakes, you learn from them and your knowledge grows.

Student Responsibility

I will do my job, which is to teach you math, but you will need to do your job. Your grade is the pay you receive for doing your job. The more you put into it, the more pay you shall receive (or the higher the grade!). How can you be successful in math?

1. Be prepared for class
2. Pay attention in class
3. **Fully engage in class activities**
4. **Complete all learning progressions on your own or according to directions**
5. Study at home for all tests
6. **ASK FOR HELP IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND**

Remember, I cannot read your mind. If you do not ask questions, I assume that you understand the material. Math concepts build upon each other. If you don't understand a concept, don't let it go by. It will come back up again and if you didn't learn it the first time, you will have trouble again. The only stupid question is the one that goes unasked!

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Complete and return to Mrs. McKinney

Math Class Period: _____

I have read and understand the 8th grade math procedures.

Student Name (Print)

Parent/Guardian Name (Print)

Parent/Guardian signature Date

Student Signature Date

Parent e-mail address:

(Please Print Clearly)