

# TEAM 7 GOLD MATHEMATICS

## Mrs. McKendry, room 408



### General Educational Objectives

The seventh grade curriculum is a prealgebra curriculum. In addition to the prealgebra objectives, some other educational objectives are:

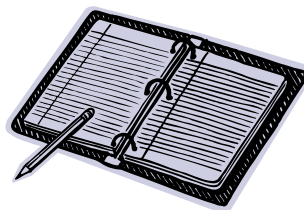
- Learning to value and clearly explain one's thinking – verbally and in writing
- Learning to value others' thinking and learn from others
- Expanding problem-solving repertoires by working on non-traditional problems
- Improving “number sense” by working on skills for estimating and mental math strategies
- Developing a beginning awareness of the breadth of mathematics through activities related to topology, some discrete math topics, and other areas
- Developing student skills:
  - turning in work regularly and punctually
  - producing quality work that meets required criteria
  - keeping an organized notebook
  - learning persistence in problem-solving
  - learning to be resourceful and responsible when experiencing difficulty
  - learning effective study and test-taking skills
- Developing effective interpersonal skills for working in cooperative groups

### Homework



- Homework assignments are given on weekly assignment sheets and on the website [www.schoolnotes.com](http://www.schoolnotes.com)
- Criteria for homework marks, as described in Math Toolbox, are:
  - showing work and writing complete, well-organized steps
  - completing all problems
  - following directions
  - making accurate and thorough corrections – marking what is correct and recording correct answers when something is incorrect
  - being on time
- Students are expected to fix and resubmit homework with marks below a [ -
- The deadline for turning in make-up work is the day of the chapter test.

## Notebooks



- Notebooks are to be kept in order at all times. Unannounced timed notebook quizzes will be given occasionally to measure how functional the notebook is.
- All papers are to be fastened into the appropriate section of the notebook, not jammed into pockets or trapper keepers.
- The notebook is the primary reference resource for this course. Students are expected to learn to use it to look up examples in notes if having trouble on homework. Students are expected to use it as the primary resource in studying for tests and quizzes.
- Periodically, directions will be given to clean out certain sections of the notebook and to make a “Study Packet” with those papers.

## Testing and Grading

- With the exception of timed notebook quizzes, the Midyear Exam, and the Final Exam, tests and quizzes are not timed for seventh grade students. There is usually a generous amount of time allotted in class for testing. The goal, however, is to have seventh graders develop more time-efficient test-taking skills as the year progresses. Developing increasingly more effective study skills will help toward this goal.
- Students in seventh grade may retake major quizzes and tests during the first half of the year for a maximum grade of 70 if they fulfill certain requirements. Homework must be caught up. They must come for extra help first. ( One exception to this policy is for students in the accelerated classes during term 2. It is felt that accelerated students do not need this option.) The goal is to encourage students to learn effective study strategies and to encourage students to come for extra help BEFORE tests if they are having difficulty.
- Grades are given a scalar weight in averaging term grades. Generally, the pop quiz average, major quizzes, homework average are each given a scalar weight of 1. Chapter tests are each given a scalar weight of 2. Midyear and Final Exams are each given a scalar weight of 2. Occasionally there may be project grades that are flexibly weighted, but they are never given a scalar weight more than 1.

## Extra Help

Students should come for extra help at the first sign of difficulty. It is very important that they learn self-advocacy skills and learn that going for extra help is socially acceptable – in fact, it can be a “cool” thing to do. Help is available mornings from 7:00 – 7:15 AM. Afternoon sessions are usually held twice a week until 3:30. Days fluctuate between Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Extra help afternoons are posted on the board in the classroom, on the assignment sheet, and on **[www.schoolnotes.com](http://www.schoolnotes.com)**.