

8th grade Mathematics
2009/2010
Ms. Meg Claypool
Room: 26

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Class Web Page: <http://mclaypool.ravenshield.com>

Welcome to 8th grade Mathematics! In this course, we'll be investigating algebra as a tool for calculation and problem solving. We'll start with some review and go on to emphasize problem solving skills (including word problems), solving equations, and real-life applications.

Organization

Each day we will start with a warmup exercise, and students will check their homework answers. Any questions on the previous night's homework will be addressed, and then new material will be presented. Finally, students will have time at the end of class to begin that night's homework assignment. Homework will generally not be assigned over the weekend :)

Required Supplies

Overall:

- A 3½ inch binder (for all classes)
or
- 2 smaller binders (different colors - one for morning classes, one for afternoon classes)
- 5 tab separators for the binder (to separate the subjects)
- Some kind of pencil organizer for your binder (remember - no backpacks in the classroom)
- Student Planner (supplied by Crescent Elk)

For this class:

- 2 or 3 single-subject spiral bound notebooks. All class notes and homework will be done in these notebooks. We will only be using one at a time, but during "back to school" they can be purchased at WalMart for 15¢ apiece.
- Pencils. I highly recommend that you buy a few mechanical pencils and some extra lead -- sharpening of regular pencils during class time is very distracting. All work and notes must be done in pencil -- no work in pen will be accepted. I've found that .7 mm lead is much sturdier.
- Colored pencils are extremely useful later in the year when we will be graphing inequalities. They are recommended but not required.
- You are welcome to use a scientific calculator on your homework, however we will not be using calculators during class.

Online Info

The class webpage is at <http://mclaypool.ravenshield.com>. Among the many resources is the calendar, where I'll post a copy of each day's notes and the homework assignment. If you miss class, try to read the notes so you have an idea what we were working on while you were gone. Students and parents can use the student's ID number to check math grades from my webpage. I'm also happy to email grade reports to parents or students, just email me a request :)

Late Work

If you are absent, you have as many days as you were absent to make up your work. If you know in advance that you're going to be gone, ask for work to take with you.

Classroom Rules of Conduct

Of course, the school Code of Conduct is in the student planner. Here are a few rules that are particularly important in our classroom:

- Be kind. We're creating a learning community, and everyone is deserving of your respect (just like you deserve theirs).
- Please be to class on time -- when you're tardy, not only are you missing out, but your late arrival is distracting to the other students.
- No gum. I like to chew it too, but it always seems to end up somewhere inappropriate. Nobody likes sitting in gum.
- No hats (you too, ladies). If you feel there's a compelling reason you should be exempted from this rule, you can try asking for an exception, but it had better be something good. (ex: My brother shaved his initials into my hair while I was sleeping and I can't get to a barber until after school.)
- No unapproved electronics. iPods, cell phones, etc, need to be turned off and in your locker for the day. If I see it or hear it, your folks will have to come get it back from Mr. Hartwick. Of course, if you have an assistive device (hearing aid, communication tablet, etc) this does not apply.
- No food in the classroom. You can have a water bottle, but no sports drinks, coffee, or other sticky spills waiting to happen. Exceptions might be made for occasional celebrations.
- Our classroom does not have running water. Bring a water bottle! If you forget, bottled water will be available for 50¢, but only before or after class. No water will be sold during class time. If you're thirsty during class, try to wait until homework time and then ask to go get a quick drink from a drinking fountain.