

Wednesday, August 24, 2011

## Mr. Dennis Pre-Algebra Course Syllabus

These are my expectations, rules, consequences, and grading procedures.  
Please read through these carefully with your parents, sign, and return to me tomorrow.

### A. Class Expectations

- Show up and be ready for class on time. You must be in your seat, with last night's practice on your desk, working on your warm-up, all before the tardy bell rings. Let me know if you'll be late for a legitimate reason (i.e. restroom, office, etc.) ALL tardies are reported to the office.
- Have all your supplies (calculator, pencils, binder, etc.) with you EVERY DAY.
- Pay attention, take notes, participate, and do not disrupt class.
- If time permits, begin practice at the end of class.
- ALWAYS finish your practice, check answers, and come to class prepared with questions.

### B. Class Rules

1. Come to class prepared.
2. Do not chew gum, eat, or drink in class.
3. Do not cause distractions during a lesson.
4. Always raise your hand before speaking during a lesson.
5. RESPECT!! Respect each other, each other's personal property, and school property.
6. Return all class items to their appropriate locations before leaving class (pencils, calculators, classroom books, etc.)

\*\*I like to make jokes during lessons. It is a way for me to keep class fun. Please understand that just because I make jokes, does not invite you to make jokes as well. Classes are very short, and I can't have distractions.\*\*

### C. Consequences for breaking class rules

I will keep track of how many times a student breaks a rule. A student will get two warnings. The third time a student breaks a rule, I will make a phone call home. An office referral will be written for students who choose to break rules after the phone call home. I will wipe the slate clean after mid-quarter interims.

\*\* If the offense is of a severe nature, I will skip warnings/phone calls, and write an immediate office referral.\*\*

### D. Classroom Procedures

- **Daily Warm-Ups** – We will do warm-ups most days. It will be up on the SMART Board at the beginning of class. You can do them directly on last night's practice. I don't grade these problems for accuracy, however it is required that students do these. It's a fun way to get class started, and a great way to "stretch" the math muscles in your brain! I randomly select students to share their answers. You can earn CANDY if you're correct!!

- **Practice** – Practice can be classwork or homework. I usually give practice every night, including weekends. You can expect around 10-15 problems. *I will post answers on Progress Book, so you are expected to check your answers before coming to class the next day.* Be prepared to ask questions about the problems you missed and/or didn't understand. Most days, time will be provided at the end of class to get started with practice. Practice will count for 15% of your grade. I will check practice every day, and report on Progress Book if it is being done. If a student falls into a pattern of not completing practice, I will call home. *Practice is vital to your understanding.* The # 1 purpose of practice is not to torture students. That's # 2. ☺ It is to practice what you've learned in class.
- **Formative Assessments** – These usually come in the form of a practice quiz. They do not affect a student's grade. They are a way for me and students to know who "gets it", and who doesn't. I use the results to determine who needs further help with a topic.

### E. Summative Assessments

These are assessments that I give to see what you've learned. They will make up 85% of your grade.

- **Quizzes** – There are generally 2-3 quizzes per unit. We may or may not review the day before a quiz. I will give you "*learning targets*" at the beginning of each unit, so that you will know what topics to study.
- **Tests** – Tests will occur at the end of a unit. We will spend the day before a test reviewing.
- **Study Island** – These are internet assignments. They are designed to review concepts, as well as prepare you for the Ohio Achievement Assessment. You will have a few of these per quarter. They are worth 10 points.
- **Flashbacks** – You will receive these on Tuesdays, and they will be due on Friday. Their purpose is to review and "stay fresh" on topics that we've already learned. In order to learn new math topics, you can't forget the old ones!
- There may be other assignments throughout the year, varying in point value.

### Other Points of Interest:

#### - Books

- Each student is given a copy of our textbook. This book must be kept in good condition. This EXACT book must be returned during the last week of school. I will keep track of the book numbers. Please write your name (in ink) in your book.
- We have enough books to have a classroom set. This means you can leave your textbook at home! You don't need to carry it in your book bag. If there are additional books, I will arrange to have some in the various study halls throughout the school.
- You are able to access your textbook online. I will show you how to do this sometime during the first couple weeks of school.

- **Calculators**

- I will keep a few of these on hand for use in my classroom ONLY. They are not for study hall use. Do not always count on using one of my calculators. There are only a few, and we often run out. You're out of luck if you don't have one to use. I highly recommend that you buy your own.

- **Grades**

- Grades and assignments may be checked using your Progress Book account. I encourage both students and parents to check this as often as possible. I make every effort to contact parents of struggling students, but please do not assume that I will do so. I feel that it is an extremely important tool to help students be successful and stay on track.

- **Communication**

- Please feel free to contact me. You may do so either by phone or email. My voicemail is 272-7320, and my email address is [kdennis@mariemontschools.org](mailto:kdennis@mariemontschools.org). I am usually able to respond by email faster than by phone call.

- **Binders**

- Student Binders are a helpful organizational tool, and are to be sectioned as follows:  
1) Notes 2) Practice 3) Formative Assessments 4) Summative Assessments
- Please put loose-leaf paper in the *Notes* and *Practice* section.
- We will spend part of the day today putting binders together.
- I will periodically help you keep your binders organized and clean.

**Other Tips for Success!!!**

1. Have a good attitude. Your attitude can make all the difference in your grades, plus it keeps you out of trouble!
2. Keep an organized binder. I will help you with this.
3. Take notes, study, and ASK QUESTIONS!
4. *See me for extra help before school, math lab (6<sup>th</sup> bell), and after school.*

Sincerely,



Kevin Dennis

-----Cut here-----

After reading the syllabus, please cut this off, sign, and return to me on Thursday. I have read Mr. Dennis' Pre-Algebra Course Syllabus.

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Student name

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student signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
parent signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
date

