**8th Grade Math**

**2011-2012**

**Mrs. Heide and Mrs. Letot**

Hello, and welcome to the new school year! Our names are Mrs. Heide and Mrs. Letot and we will be teaching 8th grade math. We hope you had a wonderful summer and are eager to jump into another school year!

**ACADEMIC BEHAVIORAL**

**EXPECTATIONS: EXPECTATIONS:**

Never be satisfied with less than your best. RESPECT yourself and others.

Bring materials to class every day. Follow directions the first time given.

Do your work each day; NO excuses. Be kind.

Get involved in class discussions. Work Hard at what you do.

Show your thinking; Neatness counts. Be Honest.

**COURSE WORK:**

CMP (Connected Mathematics Project) is the main curriculum that we will be using in 8th grade math. It is a program out of Michigan State University that aligns very nicely with the state and national benchmarks. We do use other resources, however, to enhance the state and national mandated curriculum. The topics covered may include:

**1st Semester Concepts**

*Algebra:* Linear and Non-linear Functions: Thinking With Math Models

*Algebra:* Exponential Functions: Growing, Growing, Growing

*Geometry:* Pythagorean Theorem: Looking For Pythagoras

*Algebra:* Quadratic Functions: Frogs, Fleas, and Painted Cubes

**2nd Semester Concepts**

*Geometry:* Symmetry and Transformations: Kaleidoscopes, Hubcaps, and Mirrors

*Algebra:* Linear Systems and Inequalities: The Shapes of Algebra

*Algebra:* Application and Manipulation of Symbols: Say It With Symbols

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

***Pencils, Pencils, and Pencils***

One-inch Binder or Math folder

5-Tab Dividers to go into binder

Loose-leaf paper for daily notes and work/Blue Print Graph Paper (Optional)

Personal calculators (preferably TI-84 Silver Plus graphing calculator) **NOT REQUIRED**, only optional

Colored Pencils for graphing (optional)

**HOMEWORK**:

Some homework is assigned each day. It is designed to help the student achieve a greater understanding of the material presented in class. Most work can be completed in class, but if not, then 15-20 minutes of home work is expected. Students must choose to make homework their responsibility. Neatness and readability are very important in all classes, so please do your best! If you are absent from school, please see us or a classroom friend to get any missing assignments. You have two days to make up your work for every one day of school missed.

**GRADING:**

Our grading is based on categorical percentages.

Assessments: 70%

**Tests:** Individual assessments; usually covering a unit of work. Re-takes are available for students who receive a grade below a C- (70%). The new score will be the better of the two grades up to a C- (70%).

**Quizzes:** Individual and sometimes group assessments; usually the focus is on smaller concepts, checking for incremental understanding. Many times we will re-visit the mistakes on a quiz.

**Semester Exams:** Individual assessment, covering cumulative information.

Practice (Classwork/Homework/Notebook ) 30%

We consider this area the most important because of the learning curve. This category is **PRACTICE!** We expect kids to make mistakes, but we also expect them to learn from their mistakes. Learning can’t take place, however, if the activities are not attempted. Most of the work we do is completed in class so that we are available to help the students.

**Late Work:** Late work will be accepted up to the last week of the marking period for a maximum score of 60%.

**DISCIPLINE POLICY:**

We very rarely send students to the office for disciplinary action. We would much rather work with the students ourselves. If the need arises, we may ask the student to come in during lunch and/or after school for “reflective ” time. We will communicate with each family prior to assigning after school time.

*We are very much looking forward to meeting and getting to know each of you. Perhaps even more, we are very excited to talk mathematics with you and to learn from you, as well! You are special people. You have control over the actions you take to educate yourselves. We have every belief that you will learn to make the right decisions, now and in the future. You have the potential to achieve great things! Let’s have a terrific year!*

Sincerely,

Mrs. Heide; , Home: 908.0575, School: 948.4404, EXT. 5041

Mrs. Letot; , Home: 945.4503, School: 948.4404, EXT.5048

Please sign below.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Special concerns you want us to know regarding your child: