

*Ms. Wickert's*

*Pre-Algebra 7*

**2020-2021**

*Guidelines &  
Expectations*

Knowing mathematics, requires doing  
mathematics.

Exploring

Modeling

Making Conjectures

Researching

Making Decisions

Solving Problems

Justifying

Discussing

Investigating

Describing

Predicting

## Pre-Algebra

Students are selected for this course through a thorough screening process that includes teacher evaluation, homework completion, and mathematics scores on the PSSA, curriculum-based assessments, and the Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test.

The curriculum consists of an in-depth study of traditional middle grade mathematics with emphasis on mathematical structure and application. The students are introduced to the real number system as they study whole numbers, integers, rational numbers, and irrational numbers. In all areas, the equation and its solution are incorporated. Other key areas of study include geometry; ratio, proportion, and percent; probability and statistics; standard statistical graphs; plotting of solution sets of equations; and problem solving strategies.

Because this course requires mathematical understanding that is deeper and more complex than the core curriculum, students are expected to respond at an advanced level.

Since this is an accelerated course, the time required to complete homework may exceed normal expectations.

The completion of this course at an acceptable level of proficiency requires the student to be actively involved in all lessons and to complete all assignments related to the lessons.

Assignments will be given daily (including weekends), collected, and examined for format and understanding of the concepts.

The achievement level of students in this course must be no lower than an 85% B.

If this level of performance is not maintained, the student will be reassigned to Math 7 or scheduled for Algebra Core next year.

# Workload Expectations

## Homework

Homework will be assigned on a regular basis to reinforce concepts taught in class and to prepare you for the next lesson. Most homework assignments will be worth 2 points although there will be some exceptions.

All homework assignments should include the following heading in the top right hand corner of the homework paper:

1. First and last name
2. Subject and period
3. Date
4. Section and problems

For computation type problems, students should Write Out the Problem and Show All Work.

For problems that require a written explanation, you should start your answer with a topic sentence and use full and complete sentences for the remainder of your explanation.

If you do not understand a problem, please write the problem down and circle the number of the problem. An honest attempt should be made for each problem. Homework exceeding one page of paper should be stapled. Please try to staple your homework at home so time is not wasted during class.

\*\*\* Homework is worth 10% of the overall grade \*\*\*

## Absent

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to stay current with the material. This includes both handing in overdue assignments and working with the class material you have missed. You can use the combination of Schoology and the class website to keep yourself up-to-date.

## Tests

Tests will be given 2-3 times during each unit. Tests must be finished in the time allotted. There will be no retests.

\*\*\* All test scores that are below an 85%, B, will be sent home to be signed \*\*\*

\*\*\* Tests are worth 90% of the overall grade \*\*\*

# Grading Information

## Grading Scale

A	= 93% - 100%
A-	= 90% - 92%
B+	= 87% - 89%
B	= 83% - 86%
B-	= 80% - 82%
C+	= 77% - 79%
C	= 73% - 76%
C-	= 70% - 72%
D	= 65% - 69%
F	= 0% - 64%

## Midterm

A common midterm will be given in the third nine weeks. The score for the midterm will be combined with the score of the final to comprise  $\frac{1}{9}$  of the final grade.

## Final Exam

A common final exam will be given at the end of the year. The score for the midterm will be combined with the score of the final to compromise  $\frac{1}{9}$  of the final grade.

## End of the Year Grade

The percentages from each of the four, 9-week grading periods combined with the percent for the final exam/midterm will be averaged to get your overall grade for the year. Each 9-weeks is worth  $\frac{2}{9}$ .

$$\text{Final Grade} = \frac{2}{9}Q1 + \frac{2}{9}Q2 + \frac{2}{9}Q3 + \frac{2}{9}Q4 + \frac{1}{9}F$$

"F" represents the combined % of the midterm and final exam

\*\*\* You will need to have an 85% or higher to take accelerated Algebra I next year \*\*\*

\*\*\* If your average is an 84% or lower, you will automatically be scheduled into Algebra Core next year \*\*\*

## Math Help

I am available for math help most mornings from 7:30 to 8:00 or at lunchtime. If you would like to come for help, please let me know at least one day in advance.

# Required Materials

## Class Materials

iPad - Please ensure you bring your charged iPad to class each day. If you have class later in the day plan to bring a charger with you.

Books - You will be given a Pre-Algebra book to leave at home. If you misplace your book, please let me know immediately.

Three Ring Binder - You need two three ring binders, one to bring to school and use for current material and one to leave at home for material that has already been studied.

At home = 3 inch

In School = 1.5 inch

Paper - You will need a ream of white line paper and also a ream of quarter inch graph paper.

Pencils - All students must use a pencil for note taking and homework assignments, unless using an iPad

Homework - Homework needs to be done in pencil and include a heading

Calculators - We will be using the Texas Instruments TI-83 plus graphing calculators in class. I have a set of 30 calculators to use in class, so it will not be necessary for you to bring your own calculator to school (unless you wish to).

## Contact Information for Parents

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns during the year, please do not hesitate to contact me. E-mail works best for me and is the easiest way for me to respond. If you need to call, I am usually available in the mornings from 7:30-8:00. You can call the office at 412-767-5343 and ask the secretary to transfer your call to my room.

Ms. Ashley Wickert

Email: [ashley\\_wickert@cl.fcasd.edu](mailto:ashley_wickert@cl.fcasd.edu)

Voicemail: 412-967-2400 x2014

## Website Details

### Powerschool

Parents, please make sure you have an active PowerSchool account that accepts e-mail from school. I will send out updates letting you know what we are doing in class, upcoming tests dates, test taking tips, methods that you can use to help your child study, etc.

### Schoology

Students are expected to check Schoology on a daily basis for important assignments, dates and announcements pertaining to the class.

### Pre-Algebra Website

[wickertmath.com](http://wickertmath.com)

This website is for both students and parents. It contains the same information as Schoology but has more dates and a long-term "forecast" of the class. Those looking ahead or to catch up may find this site useful. There are also various links to FCASD and math-specific resources on the site.

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**"It's important to learn math because someday you might accidentally buy a phone without a calculator."**



Dear Parents,

Please review these guidelines with your child so that you are familiar with my requirements and expectations for the class. When you are done, please sign, along with your child indicating that you have reviewed the expectations together.

Thank you,

*Ms. Ashley Wickert*

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

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include any additional information you would like me to know about your child in the space below.