

Welcome to Wonderful Math!

Regular Math 8

What are the characteristics of a successful math student?

- Comes prepared with pencils, whiteboard markers, calculator and notebook.
- Engages in lessons (listens carefully, thinking about what is being taught).
- Takes careful notes of strategies and examples for all new concepts.
- Stays focussed and makes an attempt at all practice questions.
- Does not give up when challenged, but rather keeps making good attempts.
- Reviews regularly and spends time preparing for assessments.
- Check-in with teachers when missing classes and visit the blog regularly.

What will be taught?

In Math there have been some changes to the curriculum. We will attempt to address the core competencies, as we cover the topics, by using some of the following strategies: Games, puzzles, word walls, using visual displays and manipulatives, and the daily use of individual whiteboards to increase personal involvement and provide immediate assessment.

Grade 8 Prescribed Learning Outcomes(PLO's)

- Squares, cubes, square roots
- Integers Fraction Operations, Percent and Decimals
- Proportional Reasoning (rates, ratios, & proportions)
- Surface Area, Volume, and 3-D construction
- Pythagoras
- Algebra – writing and solving equations(2 step equations)
- Linear relations – patterns and graphing
- Probability
- Financial Literacy

What materials are required?

- Basic calculator (\$5-\$15 max) **Phones & Scientific Calculators are not permitted**.
- 10 or more dry erase markers and a brush
- Pencils and erasers to last 10 months (at least 20 pencils)
- Highlighter
- 1 notebook (80-200 pages) and a binder that all classes can fit in.

How will assessment work?

- Expect practice quizzes regularly. This quiz will sometimes include questions from all learning outcomes to that point. This means the students will be reviewing frequently, so by the end of the year they will be well prepared for the final test. There may also be projects. Quizzes and projects will be cumulative and count for 25% of the final mark.
- Unit tests will occur at the end of each unit and will be worth 60% of the cumulative mark.
- There will be a final test in June worth 15% of the final grade. The expectation is that the students must pass the final exam to pass the year.

What does a typical period look like?

- It is all about developing effective strategies that work for each individual student (which means making sense of each concept) and then practice, practice, practice.
- When a new concept is introduced, the students will be taking notes using strategies that make sense to them. This means writing thorough notes, and having examples to refer back to. This becomes their study guide and will be slightly different for each student, because strategies are often individual.
- We then do practice using the individual whiteboards & paper. This allows me to quickly check on student understanding. Once I feel that there is a good grasp of the concept, the students will be assigned more questions in the textbook, work book, or other sources.
- Practice needs to be done in a workbook (**Not on loose paper**).

What can you do if you need help or have a question?

- The key to getting better at math is to practice, and when you do not understand to get help as soon as possible. I expect that all practice questions are attempted.
- If, after several attempts, a question cannot be solved, then the student can either ask for help during class, at lunch, or the next period.
- I will be available for extra help most lunches. This is a great time to get extra help in a quiet, risk free setting.
- There will be a grade 8 math blog with materials covered from the course usually updated on a daily basis. I can also be reached by email jcimmarrusti@sd73.bc.ca.

Communication is Key

- Regular communication between the students, parents and me is crucial to not letting issues get out of hand.
- I will do my best to send out regular emails about information you need to know or any difficulties your child is having, but I also encourage emails from parents. **Please make sure the school has your updated email entered in My Education BC.**
- It's more effective & successful when parents take an active role in their child's school work.