

Maria Montessori Academy Junior High
2017-2018



Math 8 Honors – 8th Grade Syllabus

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: **Math 8 Honors** students will be included in our 9th Grade classroom this year. These students have shown exceedingly proficient work in the classroom and have been given the opportunity to find a new challenge in a more rigorous curriculum within the 9th Grade Curriculum. These students will be learning the 9th Grade standards as an extension of the 8th Grade Standards and more.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS: Students are expected to come to class on-time with a positive attitude and a willingness to discover new concepts in their expanding mathematical world. Students will keep a notebook of notes for new terms and concepts discovered in class. The majority of the work for this course will take place in the classroom and time will be provided for the students to ask assistance in a timely manner for additional instructing and/or demonstration.

As Honor students, these expectations should never not be the norm. Students that fail to demonstrate these will lose the opportunity for the honors course and be placed into the regular 8th Grade Math 8 class after repeated instances have been displayed.

TEXTBOOKS & MATERIALS:

Textbook: Our textbook this year will be the Phillips Academy Curriculum available at:

<https://www.exeter.edu/mathproblems>

Students will also be using a variety of math textbooks, as well as a physics textbook.

Materials:

- **1 Graph Paper** Composition Notebook (5x5 or 4x4 squares per inch)
- **5** Three-prong Folders (Plastic)
- **1** Single Subject Spiral Notebook (College Ruled Preferred)
- **1** Personal Headphones

TECHNOLOGY:

Through a grant from generous donors, our math class has received 20 Kindles for use in the classroom. This math course will include a technology component that includes the use of Google Classroom. The student will learn in class how to access different resources for video lessons and submitting assignments electronically. I will have blog posts available for parents after these have been introduced to the student on how parents can access these accounts to assist students with their work.

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Students are welcome to bring their own technology into the classroom since all programs that will be utilized, including the calculator, will be browser based. To bring their own technology, they will need to fill out an electronic use form at the office.

Otherwise, any technology needs will be available to the student in the classroom for assignments.

COURSE POLICIES:

STUDENT WORK: Student work will consist of a balance of in-class activities, projects and assessments. Most of the student's work will not be graded for assessment of standards and will instead be the evidence of practice and developing proficiency for a standard. Grading for a standard will be done on quizzes, assessments or projects that are aligned with the standards. In class, the work of students can vary from day to day in the work cycle. Students will be given a variety of options to choose their best method of learning.

ASSIGNMENTS AND CHECKLISTS: All class work will be submitted and reviewed on a biweekly basis. Please follow your checklists to stay up to date on classwork and assignments. At the end of each two-week period, you will have submitted a completed work checklist, and any assessments for grading on the particular standard that is being focused on during that time period.

LATE WORK: The students are allowed to work at their own pace in the classroom. The time of assessments are up to the student's confidence in demonstrating mastery of a standard. Opportunities will be available in the classroom for the students to assess on standards at any time up to the end of the semester. Some standards may be revisited as most of math is a linear progress of knowledge and builds to larger concepts. The only assignments that will be graded will be assessments and projects. Projects do have deadlines that are suggested throughout the semester cycles and teacher check-ins. Missing a teacher check-in on a project could mean a loss for points.

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS: Students are expected to work on their cycle projects each night. Some parts of the projects will be done in class and teacher check-in for progress will happen every week as listed on the project cover page.

Students will also be expected to prepare for demonstrating solving the homework problems in the class. They should be listing sources referenced and any additional aides from outside the classroom.

EXTRA CREDIT: Extra credit will not be offered this year with the new SBG system. With the multiple opportunities to demonstrate their understanding of content standards and the ability for the students to retake assessments, additional work to get credit outside the standard based system would be unnecessary.

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ABSENCES: This class will function as a workshop on a typical day. New information and skills are going to always being presented in class; as such, student attendance is vital. When a student misses a class, they are missing most of their time in which to demonstrate mastery of the learning standards. When possible, please notify the teacher in advance of absences so that preparations can be made to help you stay current with your work. If you unexpectedly miss class, it is your responsibility to meet with the teacher immediately upon your return to class to make a plan to be current with your work.

CITIZENSHIP GRADE: The grace and courtesy you use toward your environment, classmates, and teachers will be factored into your citizenship grade.

CLASS RULES: Our classroom has one rule and one rule only.

You can do anything that you would like as long as it does not become a problem for someone else (Including Mr. Dave and Ms. Kat).

What does this rule mean? Exactly what it says; students will be allowed the freedom in the classroom to choose their behavior and their actions. These actions will have real life consequences based on the situation and it is up to them to decide how they want to proceed with their learning.

This does not mean that school rules are not in effect. Mr. Dave and Ms. Kat will hold students to the expectations and guidelines listed in the student handbook. Students are expected to be responsible and express good citizenship to their classmates and they should consider the one rule when they are choosing to do something that could become a problem for someone else.

This rule also means that students will be responsible for their motivation to complete the class work. The curriculum will offer a variety of choice for gaining practice to assess standards, but students will not be hounded to complete missing work by the teachers.

GRADING PLAN:

- MMA uses a Standards Based Grading System. Course standards can be found online at www.uen.org and the course blog.
- **The chart below will list the scale by score.** Clear expectations for the mastery of a standard and exceeding the standard will be listed on the assessment or project rubric. Students that choose to attempt the problems and answer them correctly will be given the higher level of mastery of a standard.
- **NOT ALL student work will be corrected for assessment of a standard and as such only those quizzes, tests, or projects that are aligned with the standards specifically will be graded.**

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Syllabus Acknowledgement Form

Please be sure you've read through this syllabus and feel comfortable with all that I'm presenting. If you have *any* questions, do not hesitate to let me know. Once you understand all that I've outlined, please sign with your parents below.

My student and I have read and reviewed this syllabus together:

PARENT / GUARDIAN NAME: _____

PARENT / GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____

STUDENT NAME: _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

Do you prefer to communicate through telephone or email? (*Please help me ensure I have the best contact information for you*)

Telephone _____ (optional)

Email _____ (optional)