

August 29, 2017

Welcome back to school! I'm sure you are just excited with entering eighth grade as I am teaching eighth grade. I am Mrs. Gallagher and I will be your math teacher for this school year. My goal is to not only teach you the Algebra I curriculum but help mold you into more responsible students to help you become college and career ready.

Last year, Garrett County Public Schools adopted a new math series from Pearson Education. It is entitled Algebra I and is problem based learning supported by visual learning, skill fluency and application. With this new math series, each student will be issued a book that must be covered as soon as possible. Students will then return the book at the end of the year. Any lost or damaged book will have to be replaced by the student. This new series follows the Common Core Curriculum and also has online practice, re-teaching, remediation, enrichment and assessments. There are math games, challenges and tools available to meet the needs of all learners, all easily accessible. I will also be incorporating supplemental lessons and activities as needed throughout the year.

The supplies you will need to bring to my class with you **every day to learn this curriculum include:**

- two composition notebooks (for math only)
- two or more sharpened pencils

During the school year, sometimes I will be incorporating a "Flipped Classroom." Instead of me teaching during the day and the students working on homework at night, I am flipping the assignments. Therefore, students will have a short video (approximately 5-7 minutes) to watch at home where they will be required to take notes on what they viewed. They will then come into class the next day with any questions. After I teach a mini lesson, they will then have time to work on practice problems during class so I am there to help. Please let me know if watching the short video clip at home is going to be a problem so we can come up with another plan for your child.

Now a few words about grading: Your grade in my class will come from these parts: Tests, quizzes, homework, and projects. Points for each assignment will reflect the relative "weight" of the assignment to the overall term grade. I *may* reassign any assignments that are not at least up to satisfactory level. Below is an example of possible points for various types of assignments.

<u>Example:</u>	Tests	100 Points
	Quizzes	10-50 Points
	Homework	5-20 Points
	Projects	50-150 Points

Students who do not keep up with their notebook and homework will not have high grades in my class. It is very important to keep all assignments organized and secured in a math binder. **DO NOT** keep assignments in your textbook or in notebooks for other classes. Also, late work **WILL NOT** be accepted after the due date. Students will receive loss of credit for any assignments that are not turned in at the beginning of the class. Students will not be allowed to go to their locker to get their assignment. Students must come to class prepared and ready to learn.

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My classroom procedures include the following:

1. Sit in your assigned seat and be seated **BEFORE** the tardy bell rings. If you are not sitting in your assigned seat before the tardy bell, you will be marked tardy.
2. Keep at least 2 sharpened pencils so you will not have to interrupt class if a pencil breaks. You must sharpen pencils **BEFORE** the tardy bell rings.
3. Look for a warm up on the Smart Board. You will place your warm up on your daily warm up worksheet. After the five minutes, I will ask for volunteers to put the problems on the board so we can go over them as a class. Students then can correct any missed work.
4. If homework was assigned the night before, we will check it after the warm up.
5. Students will then learn the objective for the day.
6. All papers in my class should be headed with your name, date, and class period at the upper right hand corner of your paper. **All work should be written in pencil.**
7. The bell does not dismiss you from class, I dismiss you. **DO NOT** leave your seat without permission.
8. You **MUST** show all work! Any work not shown will result in half credit participation points. For worksheets that are only worth five points, no half credit will be given if work is not shown.

It is **YOUR** responsibility to bring supplies to my class. Please **DO NOT** ask your classmates to borrow supplies. When you enter my classroom I expect you to be ready to **LEARN**. You **MUST** be seated in your assigned seat before the tardy bell rings, or you will be marked tardy.

Attendance is very important in math class since skills build upon one another. If you are absent, it is **YOUR** responsibility to check the missed assignment folder for your class in the front of the room for any work you may have missed. All work must be made up within 2 days. I will not ask for your missed work. Again, it is **YOUR** responsibility to make sure all your assignments are handed into me on time. If I do not receive an assignment, you will receive a zero for that assignment. If you miss class, the lessons are recorded and placed on my website, <http://www.garrettcountyschools.org/teacher-miranda-gallagher>.

The following are my classroom rules:

1. Be on-time, on-task, & prepared to learn everyday (#yourjobasastudent)
2. Enter & exit the room in an orderly manner (#safelearningenvironment)
3. Be responsible for your own learning (#cometoclass)
4. Respect the teacher, the classroom, & other students (#classroomfreefromdisruption)
5. Trash goes in the trashcan (#notyourmaidpickupafteryourself)

My classroom rules are posted around my classroom and are based on **RESPECT and RESPONSIBILITY**. These rules are set to create a positive, fun, and safe learning environment for your child. Students who choose to break any of my rules or classroom procedures will be given a warning for their first offense. If a student breaks the same rule again, consequences will be based on Southern Middle School's Code of Conduct.

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Also, if a student asks for his/her work before he/she leaves on vacation, the work must be attempted if not finished and handed in when he/she returns.

Also, a supply you **MAY** wish to purchase for class is tissues.

I am looking forward to having a great school year. It is my belief that we are working together as partners in the education of your child. As partners, we should both be fully aware of your child's progress. I will update Power School on Friday before I leave, therefore, the best time to see an update of your son/daughter's grade is over the weekend. Below, please sign the letter as an acknowledgement that you have seen this letter and are aware of the expectations of your son/daughter. Please feel free to comment on your child's work and to contact me at the school anytime.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Miranda Gallagher
8th Grade Math Teacher/Math Department Chair
Southern Middle School

Please cut on the line and return the bottom portion.

We have read the above letter and discussed the expectations for math class.

Student Name: _____
(Please Print)

Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____
(Please Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Pearson Algebra I Book #: _____

***NOTE – Any lost or damaged book MUST be replaced by the student.**