

**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 math 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 enVisionmath 2.0 and is problem based learning supported by visual learning, skill fluency and application. With this new math series, each student will be issued a consumable workbook in two volumes. The actual workbook will be housed in the classroom and as students complete lessons or are required to complete assignments from the workbook, the pages will be torn out and the student will place them in a designated math 3-ring binder. 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 include**:

- a composition notebook (which will be provided for you)
- two or more sharpened pencils

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 your 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.

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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. Always 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.

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.

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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 and read 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  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Teacher/Math Department Chair  
Southern Middle School

**Please cut on the line and return the bottom portion.**

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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: \_\_\_\_\_