

Mrs. Jennifer Cochran
Pre-Algebra 2019-2020
Cedar Bluff Middle School
Email: Jennifer.cochran@Knoxschools.org

Course Description:

Our focus in 8th grade at Cedar Bluff Middle School is to help each student to reach their full potential and prepare for the transition to high school. Pre-Algebra is a very rigorous course based on Tennessee state standards for mathematics. Mastery in Pre-Algebra will fully prepare students to enroll in Algebra I as high school freshmen.

Knox County Schools fully implements Tennessee State Standards (TNReady) within the curriculum. Multiple paths of instruction will be used in the classroom, including short answer, multiple choice, multiple answer, and constructed response tasks. Specific objectives and additional information about the new standards may be found at <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/standards/math/>

Pre-Algebra Topics covered in each Semester:

Semester 1:

- Solving Equations
- Rational/Irrational Numbers
- Exponents and Scientific notation
- Proportional and Non-proportional relationships
- Functions
- Linear Equations
- Systems of Linear Equations

Semester 2:

- Transformational Geometry
- Angles/Pythagorean theorem
- Volume
- Statistics

Textbook: Go Math, Middle School Grade 8 (Knox County adoption materials)

Materials Needed:

- spiral notebooks (70 or 100 pgs., college ruled preferred, replaced as needed)
- Expo Marker and rag/eraser for whiteboard use
- graph paper (for homework)
- #2 pencils/erasers
- TI 30 XIIS

Knox County Grade Scales:

A	93-100	Exceeds Expectations
B	85-92	Meeting Expectations
C	75-84	Approaching Expectations
D	70-74	Attempting Expectations
F	69 - 0	Insufficient student Evidence

Class Progress and Monitoring:

FIRST SEMESTER:

60% of mean of grades from Module Tests/Quizzes (summative assessments) and projects

40% of mean grades from classwork and homework (formative assessments)

SECOND SEMESTER:

50% of grade from Module Tests/Quizzes

35% of mean grades from classwork and homework

15% TCAP ** Second Semester will be the same as First Semester if TCAP does not count.

Make-up Work:

This is the responsibility of the student. Students should check in with their teacher upon returning to school for any handouts or daily assignments. If they know they will be out ahead of time, students may always ask a friend to pick up their work for them. Students have three days from the date they return to submit work which was due during their absences. **Homework is a critical component to your student's success in Pre-Algebra. Homework is purposeful practice of the skill we worked on in class that day. Homework will be graded and is factored into the course grade.**

Tests and quizzes should be made up outside of regular classroom time. If the student needs to make something up before or after regular school hours, this can be arranged between the teacher and the student on a case-by-case basis. They may also utilize structured physical activity time during school.

Attendance is critical to success in Pre-Algebra. Please encourage your child to be in class every day. Most material taught is through exploration, discovery, and discussion with peers, not just completion of a worksheet or page out of a book. The curriculum is very full and challenging. When they are absent, they miss more than can be replaced by reading a chapter. Students are encouraged to team up with another class member as a buddy to facilitate getting missed notes, handouts, and assignments when absent.

Quiz/Homework corrections:

Students will be allowed to make corrections/redo an assignment after being retaught the material. Each module in Pre-Algebra builds on previous material and our goal is for students to feel confident moving forward and given every opportunity to learn from their mistakes in order to improve their understanding of the content.

Late work:

Assignments are given to strengthen the skills and objectives learned in class and will best benefit your student's learning when completed on time. Late work must be completed outside of classroom time. The grade for late work will not be eligible for full credit. To promote daily completion of homework, and to facilitate better home/school communication, parent calls may occur if work is not being completed or submitted late. Frequent late work will result in request for parent conference.

Progress Reports & Grades:

Progress reports will be emailed home every 4 ½ weeks. Report cards will be emailed home at the end of the first semester and at the end of the year. You may request a printed copy from your student's classroom teacher if desired. Please be on the lookout for these emails and please make certain your email is up-to-date in the aspen gradebook system.

Parent portal:

Parents and students are encouraged to use the Parent Portal to check grade status. Grades are updated as they are collected and assessed, usually with an average of one or two per week. Please contact the school with any login difficulty.

Classroom Expectations:

Following these three simple rules is expected:

- *Respect yourself
- *Respect others
- *Respect property and materials

Adherence to these basic rules will allow for a positive and productive learning environment for all.

Communication: I am in my classroom each day by 8:00 A.M. Parents and students may reach me through email: jennifer.cochran@knoxschools.org. Email is the most efficient method of communication. Phone messages may be left in the office at 539-7890. I will make every effort to return messages within 48 hours.

Please return this page as acknowledgement that student and parent/guardian have reviewed the syllabus and are aware of class expectations.

Student signature _____ date _____

Parent signature _____ date _____

As your child’s teacher, I am committed to helping your child achieve growth in mathematics knowledge and comprehension. I need parents and guardians to partner with me in that effort. Please list for me the best way to communicate your student’s successes and concerns so together we can help your child have a year which will better prepare for the future.

Student name (please print) _____

Parent/guardian (please print) _____

Best way to contact you (email, text, etc.)

Also, to better serve your student, please tell me anything you believe will enable me to help your child succeed in class. Use the back if needed.
Thank you for your responses.
