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Pre-Algebra 1 2016-2017
Gresham Middle School

Course Description:

Our focus in 8th grade at Gresham 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 <http://www.tn.gov/education/article/mathematics-standards>.

Pre-Algebra Topics, General Pacing Guideline, and projected test dates:

- Module 1 - Solving Linear Equations (9/5/2016)
- Module 2 - Functions and Linearity (10/25/2016)
- Module 3 - Systems of Equations (11/23/2016)
- Module 4 - Pythagorean Theorem (12/19/2016)
- Module 5 - Geometric Relationships (1/23/2017)
- Module 6 - Transformations and Similarity (2/10/2017)
- Module 7 - Exponents and Scientific Notation (2/27/2017)
- Module 8 - Rational and Irrational Numbers (3/10/2017)
- Module 9 - Volume of Cones, Cylinders, and Spheres (4/7/2017)
- Module 10 - Bivariate Data (4/28/2017)
- TCAP State Assessment (4/17-5/5/2017) ** TBA

Dates of Module completion and assessment are subject to change

Textbook: Math Connects, Course 3

Materials Needed:

- spiral notebooks (70 or 100 pgs., college ruled preferred, replaced as needed)
- 1½ or 2 inch three ring binder
- graph paper (for homework)
- #2 pencils/erasers
- TI 30 XIIS

Additional Resources: Khan Academy, MathIXL, Front Row, Carnegie Learning, Springboard

As I encounter resources which I believe would be of benefit to class instruction, I will send communication home.

If you do not approve of a specific resource listed in this syllabus, please make your request to me in writing and an alternative assignment/materials will be provided. The request should include your name, student name, the activity/material/resource to which you do not want the student exposed, and the nature of your objection.

Knox County Grade Scales/Gresham Middle School Standards Based Grading:

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:

80% of mean of grades from Module Tests and Quizzes

20% of mean grades from classwork and homework

SECOND SEMESTER:

80% of grade from Module Tests and Quizzes

20% of grade from classwork and homework

Make-up Work:

This is the responsibility of the student. Students should check the “While you were out” class calendar and box for any handouts or daily assignments. The school email system connected through Parent Portal is used to communicate homework assignments and quiz/test reminders. Please make sure any changes are updated through the office. 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 Algebra I. 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. After school tutoring sessions are available for this purpose. Schedule will be made available at a later date.

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.

Remediation Work:

Students may be directed to re-do assignments/skill checks as needed to work towards proficiency of a skill or standard. Remediation should occur during classroom discussions. Students should be asking questions during class and seeking additional assistance throughout the module of study and before quizzes and other assessments. With any remediation, their achievement will be evaluated before an attempt to take an assessment. Pre-Algebra is a course built upon previous learning. Proficiency of each module in sequence is necessary for mastery of the upcoming module's content. It is difficult to catch up if your student gets behind.

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 and may be completed during After School Tutoring (schedule TBA). 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 sent home every 4 ½ weeks. Report cards will be sent home at the end of each semester. Report cards progress reports should be signed by parents and returned.

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 per week. Please contact the school with any login difficulty.

Parent portal training for parents and students will be on Tuesday, August 23, 5:30 to 6:30 in the Gresham Library. This is the 8th grade Open House night.

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. I have 7:30 A.M. study hall on Wednesdays. Parents and students may reach me through email: kim.egan@knoxschools.org. Email is the most efficient method of communication. Phone messages may be left in the office at 689-1430. I will make every effort to return phone messages within 48 hours.

Religion in the Curriculum

Knox County Board policy states:

The Board affirms that it is essential that the teaching about religion—and not of a religion be conducted in a factual, objective and respectful manner in accordance with the following:

1. Music, art, literature, or drama with a religious theme or basis are permitted as part of the curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs provided it is essential to the learning experience in the various fields of study and is presented objectively;
2. The emphasis on religious themes in the arts, literature and history shall be only as extensive as necessary for a balanced and comprehensive study of these areas. Such studies shall never foster any particular religious tenets or demean any religious beliefs; and
3. Student-initiated expressions to questions or assignments which reflect their beliefs or non-beliefs about a religious theme shall be accommodated. For example, students are free to express religious belief or non-belief in compositions, art forms, music, speech and debate.

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PLAGIARISM

According to Harbrace Handbook, 15th edition:

“Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else’s ideas, research, or opinion as your own without proper documentation, even if it has been rephrased. It includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Copying verbatim all or part of another’s written work;
2. Using phrases, figures, or illustrations without citing the source;
3. Paraphrasing ideas, conclusions, or research without citing the source;
4. Using all or part of a literary plot, poem, or film without attributing the work to its creator.”

CONSEQUENCES OF PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a form of stealing and academic fraud. Students who are found guilty of plagiarism will have the option of either redoing the assignment within a specified time period and accepting a grade letter drop or taking a zero on the assignment. Parents should be involved in making the decision.