

Middle School Algebra 1

Class Guidelines and Expectations

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*** THE BEST WAY TO CONTACT ME IS EMAIL***

I. Basis of the Curriculum:

The Middle School Algebra 1 curriculum was designed for the accelerated student in grades 6, 7, and 8. Middle School Algebra 1 is a unified program that incorporates the former Connect 3 XL and Algebra 1. In Middle School Algebra 1, important mathematical ideas are embedded in the context of interesting cross curricula investigations and problems. As students explore a series of connected problems, they develop understanding of the embedded ideas and, with the aid of the teacher, abstract powerful mathematical ideas, problem-solving strategies, and diverse ways of thinking. Some problems involve real-world applications or whimsical situations, while others are purely mathematical. A problem's context provides a vehicle for understanding and remembering the mathematical concepts. While students are strengthening their problem-solving skills, basic concepts and properties of algebra are introduced early to prepare students for equation solving.

In concurrence with the Prentice Hall Algebra 1 Textbook, the students will also use the Connected Math Program student books. While the Prentice Hall Algebra 1 Textbook is a traditional approach, the format of the CMP books is very different. The student pages are uncluttered and have few non-essential features. Because students develop strategies and understanding by solving problems, the books do not contain worked-out examples that demonstrate solution methods. Since it is also important that students develop understanding of definitions and rules, the books contain few formal definitions or rules. Students record their growing understanding of definitions and rules in their math encyclopedia notebooks.

Practice (homework) in Middle School Algebra 1 is intended to represent an opportunity for students to think further about the ideas in a lesson. The lesson, rather than the assignment, is the primary unit of instruction. Practice assignments will be utilized as a vehicle for teachers to help students to process, practice, connect, and extend the ideas from the lesson.

II. Scope and Sequence:

- Numbers and Operations
- Equations
- Pythagorean Theorem and Radicals
- Inequalities
- Similarities and Transformations
- Linear Functions
- Data Analysis
- Exponents
- Intro to Quadratics
- Quadratic Functions
- Systems of Equations

III. Practice (Homework) Expectations:

- Practice allows students time to reinforce and extend concepts learned during class as well as encourages responsibility, and promotes good study habits.
- If students miss turning in practice assignments, or have a pattern of turning in poorly completed work, appropriate educational interventions will be applied by the teacher.
- All work must be shown to justify answers and to demonstrate the student's thinking.
- Practice assignments **need to be completed in pencil** as corrections will be made in red pen.
- Students are expected to record the assignments in the student planner daily. The planner may be used as a communication tool between the student, parent, and the teacher.

IV. Assessments/Grading: Indicators of what a student knows and is able to do in regards to the state and district standards.

1. Practice (Homework): Includes assignments or basic skills practice such as Math Mates.

Practice will appear in the gradebook as a *non-graded* assignment. Below is a *Work Habits Rubric* that was adopted by Kinard Teachers to be used as a communication tool between the teachers, parents, and students in regards to student progress.

Work Habits Rubric

	Outstanding 10.0 - 9.0	Satisfactory 8.9-8.0	Needs Improvement 7.9-7.0	Unsatisfactory 6.9 and below
Prepared to Learn	Consistently brings needed materials to class and is consistently ready to learn	Usually brings needed materials to class and is ready to learn	Sometimes brings needed materials and sometimes needs reminders and redirection in order to be ready to learn	Rarely brings needed materials to class nor is ready to learn
Productive in Class	Consistently contributes, stays on task and works well with others in a collaborative environment	Usually contributes, stays on task and works well with others in a collaborative environment	Sometimes contributes, stays on task and/or works with others in a collaborative environment	Rarely contributes, stays on task and/or works with others in a collaborative environment
Productive on Homework	Consistently completes and turns in assignment(s) on time; follows directions; completes all aspects of assignment(s)	Usually completes and turns in assignment(s) on time; follows directions; completes most aspects of assignment(s)	Sometimes turns in assignment(s) on time; assignment(s) are not always complete	Rarely turns in assignments on time; rarely turns in assignments completed

2. Formative Assessments: Includes some practice assignments, daily and unit quizzes. Formative assessments will be weighted **30%** of the student's overall grade.

3. Summative Assessments: Includes unit tests and math mate tests. Completed after the learning experiences; requires students to demonstrate mastery of all the essential learnings of the unit. Summative assessments will be weighted as **70%** of the student's overall grade.

4. Extra Credit: Extra credit will not be offered in this class. The assignments given are essential for student learning and mastery.

V. Attendance:

Absences under a block system can significantly detract from the learning. When a student returns from an absence, he/she is responsible for getting any class notes, assignments, or to make up labs given during the absence. Assignments are posted on www.meganpule.com for this class. As another resource, it is suggested to connect with another student in class to clarify notes or assignments.

VI. Hall Passes:

Students will be given two hall passes per quarter that may be used to go to the restroom or their locker. Students will need to utilize their time effectively during passing periods to gather supplies, books, etc... for class. Emergencies will be excused.

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VI. Contract Signatures: Signing this means we have read and understand the information contained in this document.

Print Student Name

Student Signature

Print Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent Email Address: _____

Parent Cell Phone Number: _____

Parent Home Phone Number: _____

Parent Work Phone Number: _____

Comments/Questions/Concerns:
