

Running Head: COMPREHENSIVE DISCIPLINE PROGRAM

A Day in the Life of a Student with Mrs. Pule

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EPSY 490:

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## The Curriculum

I teach Connected Algebra 1, Integrated 2, Algebra 2 and Web Design to students at Cache La Poudre Junior High School. The Connected Algebra 1 curriculum combines Connected Math 3 and Algebra 1 resources to allow students to take the equivalent of two courses in one year. Concepts and skills are introduced contextually in algebraic, graphic, numeric and verbal forms. As a result, the student will be able to communicate mathematically, make connections within algebra and between algebra and other disciplines. To address district and state standards, this course interweaves mathematical topics of algebra, geometry, statistics, probability, number systems and measurement. Connected Algebra 1 explores rational numbers, equations, Pythagorean Theorem and radical expressions, functional relationships, basic geometry review, data analysis, probability, inequalities, linear functions, systems of equations, exponents, polynomial functions and quadratic functions. Upon successful completion of this course, students will progress to Geometry.

## Class Organization

The curriculum is not designated by chapter but rather by conceptual topic. Each topic will build upon the knowledge gained in the previous topic will integrated geometrical understandings and representations of algebraic material as well as comprehension testing through the use of word problems and visual displays.

Students will be seated in partnerships within the classroom to facilitate small group learning and a buddy system approach to math help. Students will be encouraged to work together for approximately half of the class period to express questions and concerns during independent study. Students will also be encouraged to take on the role of being the teacher, provided that explaining the material cements a clear understanding of the concepts.

Class will begin each day with a warm-up to remind students of previous knowledge that will be recalled within the lesson. From there students will move into checking the previous night's homework assignment. Given that math is a building curriculum completing the homework from the previous night will allow students to ask questions for clarification to ensure a solid formation to build upon. The bulk of the class meeting will be focused on building new content through the discovery model of connected mathematics. During this time new content will be discovered and explored. Students will actively participate in practice problems and then be asked to work with a partner to explore deeper understanding. The remainder of the class period will be spent with students working in small groups on a selected group of homework problems. Students will be asked to seek help from other students or from a teacher at this point in time.

## Student Needs

1. Love/Acceptance
  - a. I operate with an open door policy.

- b. I am available to meet with students before and after school, during lunch and planning periods as well as during scheduled homework time within each class period.
- c. My classroom is safe zone in which no student is discriminated against.
- d. I am willing to help a student beyond their math needs in any way that I can, provided that I am given the chance. Any information will remain confidential unless I am required by law to involve authority personnel.

## 2. Control

- a. Students control the flow of content, pausing or speeding up a process by showing complete understanding or the need for further/different instruction.
- b. Students set a classroom list of norms and expectations at the beginning of the year.
- c. As the teacher my role in the classroom is to present the material in a way in which students can develop upon the basic knowledge in a safe and healthy learning environment, with helpful guidance.

## 3. Freedom

- a. Students have the freedom to participate in their education.
- b. No student will be looked down upon for asking questions or seeking clarification.

- c. Students will be rewarded for their mathematical endeavors.

#### 4. Fun

- a. It is my goal to make math fun to learn again or for the first time in a student's life.
  - i. Academically focused games
  - ii. Rewards for "ah-ha" moments
- b. Students and Teacher will actively participate in engaging conversations outside of the math curriculum to develop a personal rapport.

#### Classroom Rules

The only rule set by the teacher is that students will respect the opinions and questions of other students at all times. This includes allowing students the opportunity to learn without fear of persecution.

All other rules will be decided and agreed upon by the members of the class.

#### School Wide Discipline

Per school policy students will be given an academic referral and a grade of zero for academic dishonesty. Per the classroom rule and school policy, any student disrupting in the education of another student will be escorted out of the classroom to meet for a

discussion regarding appropriate classroom behavior with the principal. Appropriate level disciplinary actions will follow per the student code of conduct.

## Grading Procedures

I will accept all late work prior to the end of the semester. All late work will be eligible for at most 80% of the assignment grade. Students may retake one test per semester, in which the higher test score will be entered into the gradebook. The final exam will have the weight of two test grades and replace the students lowest test grade.

### 1. Homework

- a. Homework will be assigned daily
- b. Homework will be worth 5 points per assignment
- c. Students must earn 3 out of 5 points to receive credit for the assignment
- d. Assignments will be checked for the following five points
  - i. Name is on the assignment
  - ii. All problems have been attempted prior to class beginning
  - iii. Each incorrect problem answer has been marked and the correct answer has been written
  - iv. All incorrect problems have been corrected with appropriate work

v. All work has been completed in pencil and graded in pen.

## 2. Quizzes

- a. There will be one quiz per unit
- b. Quizzes will be worth 50 points each
- c. Students will receive partial credit for showing and understanding of the content

## 3. Test

- a. There will be one test per unit
- b. Tests will be worth 100 points
- c. One test per semester is allowed to be retaken
- d. Students will receive partial credit for showing an understanding of the content.

## Adopting the Characteristics of a Quality School

It is my goal to manage a healthy and interactive learning environment in which students feel safe and a member of the community. Students will be held accountable for their actions in accordance to the classroom expectations that they have set and agreed to. While students do not always make appropriate healthy decisions, I am readily available to help students make the best decisions possible for their well-being. I view each student as a

member of my own family and only wish the best for them. I will do everything that I possibly can to see a student be successful and learn and grow throughout the school year. I understand that no student is "perfect" nor do I expect them to be. I simply ask that each students puts their best foot forward as I will do the same to help in their education.