

Ms. Yoder's Classroom Newsletter

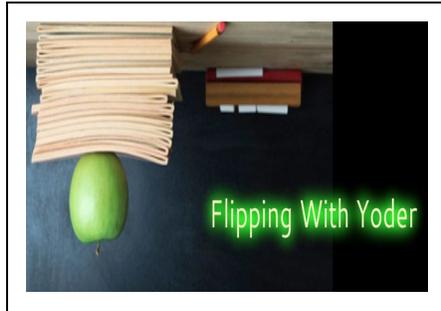
7th & 8th Grade Math

Sigourney Jr./Sr. High School

September 28, 2016

Welcome to Jr. High Math!

We are finishing up our first unit of study for the school year, and the students have been working hard to learn the routines and expectations of learning middle school math. I am very happy to be beginning my second year of teaching in Sigourney, and we have had a great start to the school year! I really look forward to getting to know each of your students as the year goes on. To make sure we continue this successful start, I want to take the opportunity to fill you in on my classroom practices and policies. Please ask your students about the information included in this newsletter. They can show you more about flip videos, the classroom website, and tell you more about what we have learned so far.



Flipped Learning

Three years ago, I began “flipping” my classroom. I have seen many students benefit from this instructional model, and many struggling math learners have found success while learning in a flipped classroom.

In short, the “flipped classroom” flips the traditional order of teaching with the purpose of a more supportive environment in the classroom where the teacher is present and able to help students. Your student gets the direct instruction of the math topics we are studying by watching videos that I create and taking notes as homework. Then, during class your student has the opportunity to work through problems and activities to practice the topics discussed in the videos. Much of the time in class is focused on group work

and peer instruction, and I am constantly going from group to group to clarify confusing parts, answer questions, and redirect.

To best support your students at home, you can encourage them to watch and rewatch the math videos and question them about what they are learning. Students will usually have two to three videos to watch per week.

We have spent a lot of time in class during the first month of school practicing where to find videos, how to take notes, and discussing students' questions about the flipped classroom. Please talk to your student for more information about flipped learning or visit sig78math.weebly.com and click on “flipped learning”.

Growth Mindset



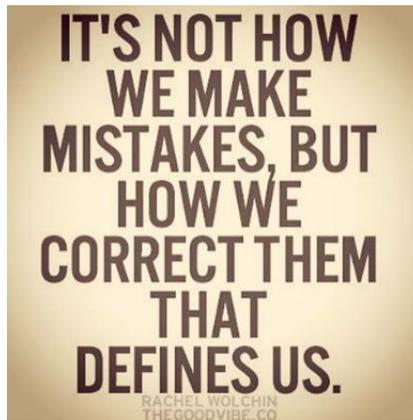
Ask your student about what it means to have a growth mindset and how it can impact learning in math! There will be an article about growth mindsets in my next newsletter!

Grading

My goal is to make sure that your student's grade best reflects what he or she knows about the current math topics of study. This means that daily classroom work, homework completion, and lesson quiz scores only count for five percent of your student's grade. The other 95 percent of final grades are comprised of test scores, and final project scores.

Video notes are entered as homework in the grade book so students can keep track of what they have or have not completed. A score of "1" indicates that your student took complete notes over the video and a score of "0" means your student had incomplete notes. Tests and quizzes will be entered in the gradebook separated by learning goal. This means that each test grade entered in Infinite Campus will represent one topic.

Timely feedback is important to me and to your student. My goal is to make sure the grade book is updated each week. Please check Infinite Campus for your child's grades often, and encourage your child to do the same.



Re-Take Policy

I believe that students learn at different paces and should be given the opportunity to continue learning even after an assessment. This means that retaking tests is always an option. I will allow any student to retake a test in order to improve their understanding of the topic. In order to complete a retake test students must:

1. Complete a retake ticket.
2. Have all of the original class work and video notes completed.
3. Correct and explain errors on the original assessment they wish to retake.
4. Show evidence of additional studying.

Since I allow students to retake any assessment, no extra credit will be offered. Please encourage your student to talk to me about doing a retake if they are unhappy with their grade!

Information, Please!

My classroom website is sig78math.weebly.com. It includes a page for each class I teach, classroom calendars, parents resources about the flipped classroom, and links to games and websites for extra math practice and help for students.

The classroom calendars contain lesson plans and homework assignments for each day of class. I have encouraged the students to use this calendar to remind themselves of homework due dates, as well as find what they missed if they were absent so they can catch up before returning to class.

Thanks!

I hope this newsletter helped you better understand my classroom practices and how you can best support your student at home. If you have any questions, you may email me any time at: leane.yoder@sigourneyschools.com.

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