

# Mr. Nichols' Course Syllabus for Common Core Math 8

## Contact Information

Phone: 425-837-5938 Email: nicholsd@issaquah.wednet.edu Web site: www.nicholsd.com

I would like to welcome all of you to Common Core Math 8 at Pacific Cascade Middle School! We will build upon what you have learned in previous years in order to make new discoveries about math and the world around us.

The Connected Mathematics Project 3 (CMP3) curriculum demands a high degree of focus, participation and dedication to completing all assignments.

## **GRADING POLICY**

The purpose of grading in the Issaquah School District is to show the current level of academic performance of students. Behavior and work habits are important as well, but they are different than academic performance and will be communicated in the comment section on the report card.

## **Assessing your Academic Learning: The Letter Grade**

This class is a Standards Based grading class. That means that the letter grade is based on how well you are able perform clearly defined learning targets. Scores for each learning target will be listed in the "Test", "Final", and "Assignments" category in Skyward. The "Formative" category is for practice assessments.

The official grade will be determined from these weighted categories

- Assignments: 15% Test: 70% Trimester Final: 15%

## **ASSIGNMENTS (15%)**

Assignments will consist of individual, team and partner activities that are graded on accuracy. This type of assignment will, most of the time be completed during class time. If you are unable to finish in time provided, the activity may be assigned to be completed at home.

## **FORMATIVE: LEARNING CHECKS (0%)**

Learning Checks will be done several times during a unit as a way to help you assess your level of understanding of the standards being taught. These are a great way to check your understanding of the materials as we work through the unit.

***If you struggle with a Learning Check, make sure you seek help immediately!!***

## **TESTS (70%)**

Comprehensive tests will be given at the end of each unit.

## **TRIMESTER FINALS (15%)**

At the end of each trimester, there will be a cumulative final for all standards covered in that trimester.

## **TEST RETAKE OPTIONS**

You will have the chance to raise your test score for any standard not met on a test through the trimester finals. If you can show an improved understanding on the final, your original test score will be changed to reflect that improvement (up to a maximum of 3.4).

## **GRADING OF QUIZZES, TESTS AND TRIMESTER FINALS**

For each quiz/test, you will receive multiple grades based on the standards that are being tested on that assessment. The following assessment rubric will be used:

meet standard	4.1:	Exceeds standard by demonstrating in-depth, thorough understanding of the standard beyond what is expected. This usually involves doing an optional extension problem. (102.5% A+)
	4.0:	Meets standard with no errors. (100% A)
	3.7:	Meets standard with near perfection. (92.5% A-)
	3.4:	Meets standard with minor errors or confusions. (85% B)
below standard	3.0	Approaches standard and understands a lot, but has at least one major error or confusion. (75% C)
	2.5:	Approaches standard, but has multiple major errors or confusions. (63% D)
	2.0:	Does not meet standard and demonstrates limited understanding. (50% F)
	0:	No attempt. (0% F)

## **HOMEWORK (0%)**

Most homework will be done on graph paper, either stored in a binder or spiral notebook. If absent, it is your responsibility, as the student, to find out what you missed and *make up all missed work* within the “absent work” school policy time.

You will be expected to ***correct your own homework using online answer keys, when provided.*** If you are unsure if an answer key is provided, check the website after 5:00pm to see if one was posted. I will check homework daily. Homework will receive a score based on effort and the following rubric:

- 4: All problems are completed, all work is shown, and complete sentences are used when necessary.
- 3: Most problems are completed, all work is shown, and complete sentences are used when necessary.
- 2: Less than half are completed, all work is shown, and complete sentences are used when necessary.
- 0: No attempt or missing

## Assessing the Student's Non-Academic Performance

Evaluation of behaviors not reflective of academic learning will be clearly separated to get a clearer picture of your strengths and weaknesses as a student. You will be evaluated in the following four non-academic areas. Each of the four areas will be reported on the report card based on the following three-point scale

Consistently	Sometimes	Rarely
3	2	1

**Work Habits** – Reveals how well you come to class prepared and turn in quality, complete, on-time work. A score of “3” indicates that you consistently come to class prepared and produces high quality, complete, on-time work.

**Initiative** – Reveals how active you are in taking charge of your learning. A score of “3” indicates that you consistently ask questions, seek help, use the feedback from learning checks to improve on the unit tests and turn in missing work when given the opportunity.

**Collaboration** – Reveals your ability to fully participate in class discussions and group activities. A score of “3” indicates that you consistently participate productively, stay focused and work in an inclusive manner.

**Citizenship** – Reveals your discipline and self-control in the routines of class. A score of “3” indicates that you consistently follow rules, respect others and complete work with integrity.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Clear communication is critical among students, parents, and teacher. I am available through voicemail or email, although email is the most efficient way to contact me.

### **DAILY SUPPLIES**

These supplies are your responsibility to bring **daily** to math class:

- correcting pen
- graph paper
- 3-ring binder
- pencils (mechanical preferred)
- planner
- scientific calculator (TI-30XIIS recommended)

## **EXPECTATIONS**

In order to be successful, everyone needs to feel like the classroom is a safe place to learn, experiment, and make mistakes without worry. To this end, I will hold you to the following expectations at all times:

### **READINESS** *I am responsible for being prepared*

- Be prepared for class each day with needed materials and completed assignments.
- Be ready to learn, with a positive attitude and hard work.

### **RESPECT** *I must not prevent others from learning*

- Respect the classroom by handling materials and supplies properly
- Respect your classmates by listening, working cooperatively and refraining from negative comments and actions.
- Respect the teacher by listening carefully.

### **Learning** *I am responsible for my own learning*

- Complete all homework, projects, and assignments on time.
- Keep track of assignments in your planner.
- Make-up all work missed due to absence.
- Study for quizzes and tests.
- Participate in class discussions and activities.
- Try your hardest and do your best work at all times!

**FIRST ASSIGNMENT**

Please read over the syllabus with your parent/guardian. Detach this page, fill-out, sign and return it to Mr. Nichols by **Friday, September 15, 2017**. If you have questions or concerns, at any time, I can be reached through the contact information at the top of the syllabus. I am looking forward to working with you and your family this year!

Student's Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

Mom's/Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Best Contact Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Dad's/Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Best Contact Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Which email/phone number is the best way to reach a parent/guardian? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have internet access at home? (check one box)      Yes       No

Please use this space to help me understand your child as a math learner :

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Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

