

2011-2012 Accelerated 7th Grade Math (Honors Pre-Algebra)

For the 2011-2012 school year, elementary students accelerated to 7th grade for math will participate their own section of the class. Please note the following details:

Location

Cassingham Elementary, room 2302/2303: Enter the front door of Cassingham Elementary, and proceed to the 3rd floor. Ms. Amspaugh's GATE classroom is one of two on the 3rd floor, and is across from Mrs. Resek's room.

Time

- Students should arrive at Cassingham between 8:30 and 8:35 a.m., and should report directly to the GATE classroom when the bell rings. Students may not enter the building until the first bell at 8:30.
- Our math period ends at 9:25. At that time, Maryland and Montrose students are transported by bus back to their regular buildings for the remainder of the day. Cassingham students return to their regular classrooms at 9:50 M/T/Th, 9:30 W/F.
- Math classes will begin on the **second day of school** so that students can participate in first-day activities in their home buildings.
- On Late Start Days, we will have a shortened math period. Students should report to Cassingham for math at 9:30, and class will end at 10:15.

Teacher

- This year's accelerated 7th grade math class will be taught by Cassingham GATE teacher, Ms. Chris Amspaugh (chris.amspaugh@bexleyschools.org).

Transportation

- Families need to make their own arrangements for students to arrive at Cassingham in the morning.
- Maryland and Montrose students will be transported by bus back to their home buildings after math.

Materials

Students will need the following items:

- **Texas Instruments TI-30XIIS Calculator** (be sure that you do NOT purchase the multi-view model)
- 3-ring binder
- Set of dividers
- Notebook paper
- Pencil Pouch
- Several **pencils** with erasers. Students should NOT use ink in math!
- A set of 10-12 colored pencils.

We will be using the same Pre-Algebra textbook used at the middle school. Students will be provided with one hard copy of the text and will have access to a digital version that can be accessed online. Students will also be assigned a locker outside our classroom for personal items.

Curriculum Units

Major areas of study include:

- Number Sense
- Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities
- Proportional Relationships
- Rational/Irrational Numbers
- Pythagorean Theorem
- Transformations
- Functions
- Geometry
- Statistics
- Probability

This is an honors-level course, and follows the same curriculum as its counterpart at Bexley Middle School.

Homework

Students should expect to have math homework almost every day. It is vital that students complete their homework, as it provides a risk-free opportunity to practice essential skills and concepts. While I do not include most homework assignments as part of the overall grade, there tends to be a strong relationship between homework completion and mastery demonstrated on tests/quizzes.

Grades

Students' math grades are determined primarily by the degree to which they have demonstrated mastery of the math skills and content within the grading period. We have frequent assessments in order to give students multiple opportunities to demonstrate mastery, as well as to inform instruction. Students who do not demonstrate mastery on an initial test/quiz are given an additional opportunity to demonstrate mastery after further study. Prior to the retest, students are expected to take active responsibility for learning the material. For example, they could ask for individual help, study the class notes and examples, or use resources such as Study Island. The overall grade is not an average of all attempts, but is instead an indication of the percent of learning targets mastered.