

# 2011-2012 Accelerated 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math (Honors Pre-Algebra)

## General Class Information:

### **Contacting Ms. Amspaugh**

- Email: [chris.amspaugh@bexleyschools.org](mailto:chris.amspaugh@bexleyschools.org) (\*Email is the best way to reach me.)
- Voice mail: 237-4309, extension 6585 (Please note that I rarely check my voice mail. If you need to reach me immediately, please email or send a message through the office.)
- If you would like to meet with me in person, please email to set up a time. Out of respect for students' instructional time, I ask that you please do not stop by the classroom during the school day unless you have a scheduled appointment.

### **District GATE Webpage**

- Available at <http://gate.bexleyschools.org>

### **Class Webpage**

- Our class webpage is my primary means of communication with parents. Please bookmark the page and check back often for updates!
- <http://gate.bexleyschools.org/cs>
- Follow the links to see homework calendars and other class information.

### **Class Sakai (Online Classroom)**

- Available through Bexley WebCentral at <http://webcentral.bexleyschools.org>.

### **Think Central (Online Textbook and Resources)**

- Available at <http://thinkcentral.com>
- Students have received individual login credentials

### **Study Island**

- Available at <http://www.studyisland.com>
- Students will use a middle school login to access the 7<sup>th</sup> grade math materials in Study Island:
  - Username: [first.last@bms](mailto:first.last@bms)
  - Password: bexley (students may set a new password after their initial login)

### **GATE Conferences**

- I am available for conferences on Thursday, November 10 and Friday, November 11. Parents of returning students may wish to conference through email, rather than scheduling a face-to-face meeting. You are always welcome to contact me by email or phone if questions arise throughout the year. Thank you!

### **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.
- Transitions Math 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.
- On Late Start Days, students should report for math by 9:30 a.m. for a shortened math period. Class will end at 10:15 a.m.

### **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 (if mechanical, provide own refill lead). 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.