

Woodside Elementary School 2016-2017

Middle School Math

Algebra Syllabus

Mission:

To compete successfully in the worldwide economy and to participate fully as informed citizens, today's students must have a high degree of comprehension in mathematical reasoning and understanding. The goal at Woodside is that all students meet or exceed the California Common Core State Standards for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade math as well as Algebra so they will be confident problem solvers, eager to learn, and inspired to pursue advanced studies in math and science. This philosophy is predicated on the belief that proficiency in mathematics is a result of sustained effort and effective teacher instruction. All students are capable of understanding mathematics, given the opportunities and encouragement to do so.

Content:

All eighth graders and some seventh graders will study a math curriculum based on the Algebra 1 textbook published by Big Ideas Learning. The textbook will be supplemented by Khan Academy, resources issued by the Silicon Valley Math Initiative, and other materials. This curriculum will cover all of the common core Algebra 1 standards.

The domains covered are:

Number and Quantity

- The Real Number System

- Reason Quantitatively

Algebra

- Structure in Expressions

- Computation with Polynomials & Rational Expressions

- Creating Equations

- Solving Equations & Inequalities

Functions

- Interpreting Functions

- Building Functions

- Linear, Quadratic, and Exponential Models

Statistics and Probability

- Summarize, represent, and interpret single and bivariate data

- Interpret linear models

Grades:

Grades will be based on an unweighted total of points accumulated throughout each trimester. The points will be distributed in roughly the following proportions:

- 75% Tests and Quizzes
- 25% Homework

Letter grades will be assigned based on the common rubric for all of middle school students at Woodside Elementary School.

The following is a description of the grading system:

GRADE PERCENT

A	93 - 100
A-	90 - 92
B+	87 - 89
B	83 - 86
B-	80 - 82
C+	77 - 79
C	73 - 76
C-	70 - 72
D+	67 - 69
D	63 - 66
D-	60 - 62
F	below 60

Class Groupings:

In order to offer students the best opportunity to excel in their mathematical development, they are grouped in small classes. This allows the math instruction to be tailored to the needs and learning style of the students in that group.

Groups are chosen based on several criteria including performance on the preceding year's MARS, SBAC, MDTP and grades. These groups are fluid as students needs and performance can change over time. After six weeks of school class groupings will be reexamined to ensure that students are succeeding in their assigned classes.

Homework:

Homework is typically given on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. It is expected to be turned in at the start of the following class. Homework is expected to be completed correctly, in the proper format, with all work shown, and on time. Failing to meet any of these criteria will result in a reduced score for the assignment.

Homework assignments will be assigned in class and posted on the teacher's website. The purpose of homework is to practice and master the math skills that are taught in class. In order to differentiate the practice and meet the needs of the individual child, homework assignments may vary between classes at the same grade level.

Test Correction Policy:

Any student who earns below a 70% on a quiz or test may complete test corrections using the document provided in class and on the class website. Corrections must be completed within one week of the return of the assessment. By accurately completing these test corrections, the student may raise their assessment grade up to a maximum of 70%. If a student receives a grade equal to or above a 70%, they will not be allowed to raise their grade by test corrections. Students will not be allowed to retake an assessment.

Late Work:

Following excused absences, students will have a number of days equal to their number of days absent to complete any missed assignments. Late homework will be accepted for half its original point value.

Citizenship Grade:

O Outstanding

S Satisfactory

N Needs Improvement

U Unsatisfactory

To receive a Satisfactory (S) grade in citizenship, you must achieve the following:

- Have a good attitude towards your fellow classmates. No put-downs!
- Show attentive and respectful behavior at school
- Follow the dress code
- Have homework completed on time
- Be honest
- Be responsible with your school work
- Act in a safe manner
- Respect school property

- Respect other people's space and do not interfere with their learning
- Arrive at school and at class on time and ready to learn
- Be prepared for class (e.g., books, papers, pen, pencil, and binder reminder)

To receive an Outstanding (O) grade in citizenship, you must achieve all of the above plus two of the following:

- Actively help and support your fellow classmates
- Participate positively in a leadership role
- Exhibit "Life Skills" on a consistent basis
- Perform some sort of extra task that helps your classmates
- Demonstrate frequent and consistent school spirit

Needs Improvement (N) or Unsatisfactory (U) citizenship grades will be earned by those students who consistently fail to achieve satisfactory performance.