**7th Grade Algebra Syllabus**

“Hard work beats talent when talent fails to work hard.” -Kevin Durant

**Course Description**

 There are four areas of critical understanding for our 7th grade Math focus:

1) Proportional relationships

2) Rational numbers (fractions & decimals) in expressions and equations

3) Geometry (scale drawings, construction, cross sections, circles, angles)

4) Probability and Statistics (drawing inferences based on samples)

**General Course Timeline**

*Number sense development, measurement, and statistics will be featured throughout the year.*

1st Quarter – Rational number system including integers, ratios, rates, and unit rates

2nd Quarter – Proportional relationships, percents, and probability

3rd Quarter – Expressions, equations, & geometry

4th Quarter – Triangles and 2D cross sections from 3D figures

**Instructional Design**

 The instructional design of our 7th grade Math classrooms incorporates the concept of a learning community. Students are challenged to push their thinking skills and that of their peers. They are encouraged to participate fully and even make mistakes, as this is often when the most learning is occurring. Instruction is designed based on what skills students are demonstrating in classroom discussions, classroom assignments/assessments, and homework assignments. This makes the completion of homework extremely necessary, as teachers are constantly assessing how students are doing with the mathematical concepts.

**Course Textbooks**

 There are two volumes for the 7th grade Math textbook. We have found students do not want to take time to study HOW to show their work, but we encourage them to look closely at examples given in the textbook showing them how to set up their work especially when they are struggling to understand concepts. The book often shows multiple strategies for how to arrive at an answer. We want students to be aware answers to odd-numbered problems are given in the back of the book. They are still expected to show the work to reach those answers, but the answers can assure them they understand the process or need to review the examples in greater detail.

Alternative strategies developed by our students in solving mathematical problems are celebrated and shared with peers. There are multiple ways to solve most problems and no one way is correct. We encourage students to make sense of the math themselves and be able to communicate their understanding to the benefit of our mathematical learning community.

Both volumes of the Math textbook can be accessed online at connectED.mcgraw-hill.com . Students will need to type in their username and password to access this resource online. In addition to being able to view the textbook, they will also be able to access ALEKS. ALEKS is a valuable online tool to keep them practicing their 7th grade Math concepts. It assesses them, and then takes them through individualized lessons to help them learn concepts they are still struggling to master. It will even explain concepts to them if they are still struggling during the lesson. We will be periodically assigning homework in ALEKS to keep them practicing grade level concepts. These assignments can be printed out if students do not have access to the internet at home or during study hall.

**Classroom Rules**

 1. Use time wisely.

 2. Come prepared to learn.

 3. Jump right in; mistakes are natural.

 4. Give respect and get respect.

 5. Work hard.

**Merit System**

 According to our school policies, if a student losing 30 merits in a single grading period, (s)he cannot participate in Super Club. In order to assist students in being responsible for their merit loss, we will be assigning a detention to any student who loses three merits in one class.

**(3 lost merits per class = detention)**

 Some typical reasons 7th graders lose merits in class include the following:

Tardiness – students are considered tardy if they are not in their seat when the bell rings.

Coming without necessary materials – students are expected to bring pencil(s), math binder, textbook(s), and homework on a daily basis.

Homework – students are expected to turn in their homework when they come to class. It will be written on the board to remind them. If it is incomplete, they should still turn it in, so we know it was attempted. It will result in the loss of a merit. If students disregard the instruction to turn in their homework, then it is considered missing and results in an extra loss of a merit.

Restroom – students are given one emergency restroom break each grading period. This break can be used without repercussion. If another restroom break is needed during the grading period, it will result in a merit. If a third restroom break is needed during the grading period, it will result in a merit and the serving of time after school.

Leaving materials behind in your desk – students are expected to take their belongings with them at the end of class. They will lose a merit for leaving their materials behind in their desk.

**Classroom Policies**

Late Assignments – students are encouraged to turn in late assignments when necessary. They have already lost a merit for it being incomplete or missing. While it may result in a lower grade depending on the assignment, it will be noted in Progress Book and will still allow us to determine how students are progressing with their understanding of concepts.

Retakes/Corrections – students are given an opportunity to correct nearly every assignment for partial credit. We want to encourage them to learn from any mistakes they have made. In order to correct their work, we require they complete a corrections sheet that asks for them to discover what part of the problem solving steps caused them difficulty, and then to show the correct work and answer. They can complete these corrections on their own, but we encourage them to ask us questions when they are not sure why they missed a problem. This allows us to reteach the concept if necessary.

**Remind**

 We will using the Remind system to send out periodic updates and notifications. If you would like to be included in these class updates, please be sure we are informed of your current cell phone number or email address. There are two simple ways to get signed up. You can either send a text or sign up online. Please see the attached directions to get started.

**Contact information**

We are a team when it comes to helping students prepare for their future. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

**School phone number:** (740)335-0291

Mrs. Tracy Semler **Email**: tracy.semler@wchcs.org **Phone Ext**: 3205

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