Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the start of another school year and an exciting year in 8th grade! This year will be filled with many new learning experiences and exciting activities as your children round out their middle school careers. Please remember that success in middle school is tied to being organized and responsible. The following are some things you and your child can do to help ensure his/her success in math this year.

First, it is imperative for your child to attend math class regularly and be prepared with the proper materials. Please be sure your child has the supplies listed below with him/her each day.

**SUPPLIES**
- Planner (provided by the school)
- 3-inch, 3-ring binder (from school wide supply list)
- 8 tabbed dividers (from school wide supply list)
- College ruled loose-leaf notebook paper
- Sharpened or mechanical pencils & cap erasers *(NO PENS USED IN MATH)*
- Basic calculator with square root key and +/- key *(NO SCIENTIFIC CALC.)*
- Hand-held sharpener with shavings case
- Flexible ruler with inches and centimeters
- Protractor & compass
- Math textbook (covered, please) & workbook

**ATTENDANCE**
If your child misses math class, he/she is missing valuable instruction time which cannot be recreated. It is his/her responsibility to obtain and complete any missed assignments (class work and homework), and turn them in within the allowed time frames as specified by school policy.

Secondly, students need to engage in the learning process by paying attention and actively participating each day in class. This includes asking questions about any concepts they are having difficulty with.
HOMEWORK
While homework counts as a small percentage, overall, in the calculation of your child’s grade, it is by far one of the most important things a student can do to affect and improve his/her math grade. Students will copy homework assignments into their planner each day in class, and complete the assignment at home. Homework will be assigned on a regular, daily basis in order for students to practice skills covered in class. Homework is counted based on completion, and only completed assignments will be accepted. In order to receive credit, all problems must be fully attempted in pencil, and work must be shown. Time spent completing homework should not be overwhelming if class time is used appropriately and homework time at home is focused. Some homework assignments are started in class and should be finished at home to be turned in the next school day, while other homework assignments are separate from class work.

Except when a student is absent, homework assignments not completed and turned in the next school day, with all work shown, will earn a 0. While I expect for students to complete homework assignments in a timely manner, I do understand that things come up, and I give the students 3 “blessings” each nine weeks. A “blessing” allows a student to complete a missed assignment and turn it in the next day for full credit. Until the assignment is made-up and turned in, the student will have a 0.

TESTING
Each student should prepare for tests of major chapters / units covered. This will ensure we have met our goals and objectives. Preparation for tests might include reviewing notes, previous quizzes, warm-up exercises, homework, and the textbook. Practicing a few problems from each section of the chapter is also helpful. Students may also review the online textbook resources at http://www.bigideasmath.com for Pre-Algebra and PowerAlgebra.com for Algebra I.

GRADING
Grading for my class will be calculated as follows 8th Grade Math & Algebra I:

- Tests—60%  
- Quizzes—10%  
- Homework—15%  
- Participation Activities—15%  
- Semester & final exams count for 20% of the grade for that semester

Intensive Math—Grading will be based on total points earned out of total points possible from class assignments and activities.
**CLASSROOM RULES / REWARDS / CONSEQUENCES**

Students are expected to:

**BE PROMPT** (on time and in your seat when the bell rings)

**BE RESPECTFUL** (of adults, yourself, others, others’ property, and others’ ideas)

**BE PREPARED** (have all necessary materials for class including homework)

**BE SAFE** (keep hands, feet and objects to yourself)

**BE RESPONSIBLE** (return signed papers in a timely manner, make up missed assignments, study for tests and accept consequences respectfully when you’ve made a poor choice)

**BE AN ACTIVE LEARNER** (contribute to class discussions, answer questions when asked and ask questions when you don’t understand something or need clarification)

**BE POSITIVE** (Attitude is a LITTLE thing that makes a BIG difference!)

Rewards may include praise, positive phone calls/emails/notes home, pride in accomplishments, positive referrals to office, and occasional treats.

Consequences may include a verbal warning, lunch detention, after school detention, loss of privileges, referral to BAMA (Behavior Attitude Modification Area) for a “time out,” or office referral (which may result in ISS or OSS).

Parental awareness, support and involvement are crucial to the success of a child, so please be sure you know what is expected and ask about your child’s classes. Even if you don’t think you can help, showing concern is a big deal to a child. Skyward (our online grading system) is available on a regular basis to parents and students to check on grades as well as assignments via skyward.nefec.org. Please contact the office for login and password information so you can monitor your child’s progress.

I look forward to partnering with you this year in educating your child. Keeping in touch is very important to me, and I encourage you to do so! Please feel free to contact me by phone (CMS—493-6025) or email (phillim@levy.k12.fl.us) when you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mary Phillips
8th Grade Math / Algebra I Teacher
8th Grade Math Policy Letter—Ms. Phillips

***Our textbooks are very expensive.***
The replacement cost for a damaged or missing math book is between $70.00 and $80.00. Please make sure your child is careful with the book and does not write in it.

I have received the grading policy and classroom expectations letter for Ms. Phillips’ 8th grade Math class and reviewed it with my child.

STUDENT INFO

__________________________
Student Signature

__________________________
Printed Student Name

__________________________
Student email address

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFO

__________________________
Parent Signature

__________________________
Printed Parent Name

__________________________
Parent email address

__________________________
Preferred telephone #(#s) for contact.

KEEP THE TOP PAGES AT HOME FOR YOUR INFORMATION.
PLEASE SIGN & RETURN THIS PAGE TO MS. PHILLIPS ASAP.