

Pre-Algebra

Mrs. Dedini – Rm. 18

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Goals:

- A high level of success in mathematics with understanding of concepts presented and explored. Ideally, each student will perform at proficient or advanced levels on the California Standards Test (CST) in the spring.
- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- Work with classmates to explain and justify math reasoning, and critique the reasoning of others.

Materials:

- Spiral-bound, 3-hole punched **notebook** for math section of your binder
- Several sharp **pencils** with **erasers** (mechanical pencils with lead refills work nicely)
- Ball point **pen** – any color *other than* purple or black
- Dry erase markers** and **personal white board** (*the first “PWB” will be provided for you*)
- Ruler** and / or protractor
- Colored pencils**
- Graph paper**
- A **scientific calculator** is **highly desirable**, but not required

Grading:

50% tests and quizzes

50% assignment notebook (including notes and binder organization), participation, & projects

I do not give extra credit. If you keep up with your work you will do well. If you fall behind, you will have problems. **It's that simple!** Since there will be an assignment nearly every day in math class, it is very easy for a student to fall behind. Every day students will write in the “MATH” section of their agenda *even if there is no assignment-WITHOUT EXCEPTION.* **Parents:** please ask to see your student's agenda or **check ABI** if there is any question about an assignment. Please realize that it is the *student's responsibility* to write the assignment in their agenda on a daily basis. Every student should also have the name and phone number of a reliable classmate from which they can obtain assignment information, if necessary. I also maintain a website with important information about my class, including **current assignments**, some **assignment downloads**, frequently asked questions, links, and upcoming topics: www.mrsdedini.com. If there are any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail: ddedini@kingsburg-elem.k12.ca.us. I will do my best to respond to your communication promptly.

Tests:

Students will be notified of tests *at least three days prior* to the exam. Students who have taken notes and kept up with the ongoing work in the assignment notebook will find that they are most successful on these tests, as the notebook serves as a priceless study guide. This class will also include weekly quizzes and periodic homework quizzes, on which students are asked to copy selected problems from their assignment notebook, showing work and/or giving a detailed explanation of their work. This will be a simple task for the student who has completed the given work; however, it will not be easy for the student who has allowed himself or herself to fall behind.

Assignment Notebook: The assignment notebook is the key to success in this class. Students will take Cornell notes on the left side of the notebook and complete the day's assignment on the facing page. A **complete assignment** is completed *in pencil only*, and includes re-written original problems, all steps of work shown, any figures or diagrams copied from the book, and Cornell notes. All COMPLETE assignments (with required notes) will be given full credit (10 pts.). Bonus point opportunities are offered on *most* assignments (called “may dos”), where students dig deeper into the math topic for an additional point or two. Incomplete assignments will be given 0 points. Please be aware that an **incomplete assignment (0 pts.)** is one that contains missing and/or unfinished

problems, problems for which no work was shown, or does not include the complete notes. All *late work* will be graded **according to school policy**:

If your work is not complete the class period it is due, it is considered LATE. To receive 70% late credit, ALL late assignments must be completed in entirety and turned in to the teacher **NO LATER THAN** the end of the day on the first day of the week following the assignment's due date (usually a Monday). No late work will be accepted after this date for any reason, and the 0-pt. score will remain on the ABI grade.

Binder Organization: Binders should include two divider tabs for math; the **resources** section and the **work** section. The first section will hold important handouts, tools, and information to which we will continually refer all year. Please **do not** remove any papers stored in the **math resources** tab! The second will contain all work from the current grading period. This section may be cleaned out after each trimester's grading *is complete*.

Projects: Students will complete several math projects throughout the course of the year. Details on these projects, including a project information sheet as well as a grading rubric, will be sent home with the students as they occur.

Tardies: Students will be marked tardy if they are not **sitting at their desk, starting work** when the bell rings. It is very important that each student begin the day's work as soon as they enter class.

Bathroom / Water Fountain: Students should take care of their personal needs of using the restroom or getting a drink **before** coming to class. If using the bathroom is an emergency, the student may be required to make up the time during lunch.

What If I Need Help? Pre-algebra is a challenging and rewarding subject requiring effort, exploration, and the ability to learn from common errors. Students are encouraged to seek help, if needed, from parents, older siblings, or fellow students. I am also more than happy to assist students who ask for help. Students may contact me – either in person or via e-mail – to make arrangements for a meeting to assure I will be available to give my full attention to his/her specific questions. Otherwise, I am often in my class before and after school and during the morning and lunch breaks, as well, but cannot guarantee my availability if prior arrangements have not been made.

Tips for Success in My Class:

attend regularly / come to class prepared & on time / participate in class discussions
take notes / do assignments / give your best effort / have fun!

Math Buddies

Write the names and phone numbers of reliable students in **this class**. This will come in handy if you are absent, have a question, or need a "study buddy."

Name _____

Phone # _____

Name _____

Phone # _____

On-line Textbook Tutorials

Log on to **my.hrw.com** to access great pre-algebra resources, lesson tutorials, practice quizzes, as well as a full, electronic version of the pre-algebra textbook!

My Username _____

My Password _____

ABI Gradebook

You will find a link to **ABI**, our school's electronic grade book, on my website: www.mrsdedini.com.

ABI Username _____

ABI Password _____