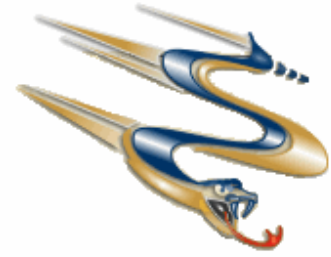


Smith Junior High School  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics  
2008 / 2009



Instructor: Mr. Hall	Room: 316	Phone: (480) 472-9929	email: <a href="mailto:gahall@mpsaz.org">gahall@mpsaz.org</a>
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Dear Parent/Guardian,  
Welcome to the 2008 / 2009 school year. Below is a description of the requirements for the math class your students will be taking this year. These descriptions were designed to answer frequently asked questions regarding homework, tests, and grading policies. Please feel free to call me at the number above, or email me, if I haven't covered any question you might have. I hope your students will enjoy and be successful in their 8<sup>th</sup> grade Smith Junior High School math class.

Pre Algebra overview:

Instruction for pre-algebra will follow the strands outlined in the AZ Dept. of Ed. academic standards: Number Sense & Operations; Data Analysis; Probability & Discrete Math; Patterns, Algebra & Functions; Geometry & Measurement; Structure & Logic.

Homework Policy:

Your child will have homework on a daily basis. Most homework assignments consist of approximately 20 problems. Your student will have most of the homework completed before they leave the class period that day. It would be helpful if you asked your student everyday to show you their math work. In order to earn any credit at all, students must follow the Sidewinder homework philosophy of:

Quality Work:  
Completely Finished  
The Best You Can Do  
On Time

An assignment with even one problem left blank (or not seriously attempted) will be marked as incomplete and be given a zero. The purpose of these assignments is to practice new objectives learned that day -- as well as to review previously taught information to prepare for section tests, semester tests, District Tests, and the all important AIMS Test. With this in mind, it is imperative that you and I work together to help your student understand the necessity for and importance of classroom participation and homework.

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Test/Quiz Policy:

Tests and quizzes are given approximately every other week. Prior to each test, a take-home quiz is given and will serve as a study guide for the corresponding test. Due to the fact that quizzes are take-home format, no re-takes are allowed. Tests are 20 questions in length and focus on material that was covered throughout specific lessons. Extra credit may be earned by students having their parents write a note to the Teacher indicating adequate study time for the test. Students scoring below 70% have the opportunity to retake the test during an after school extra help session.

Supplies that would be helpful for my child to have:

An organized 3-ring notebook

Pencils, red pens for grading, a ruler (with both centimeters and inches)

A spiral notebook (provided by the instructor) for notes

A Smith Junior High Planner: to be filled out with each day's assignment (provided by school)

Planners are intended to be a communication tool between parents and teachers. Please check them each Friday.

Grading Scale

A = 90% - 100%	Tests/Quizzes	= 55% of final grade
B = 80% - 89%	Homework	= 30% of final grade
C = 70% - 79%	Organized Notebook	= 10% of final grade
D = 60% - 69%	Class Participation	= 5% of final grade
F = below 60%	(The overall semester grade is determined by each quarter counting 2/5 <sup>ths</sup> of the grade and the semester test 1/5 <sup>th</sup> .)	

Again, please call(10:00 - 11:00) or email me with any additional questions or concerns. I look forward to working with your student this school year.

Sincerely,

Gregory Hall

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The signatures below indicate that you have read and understand the information outlined in this letter. Please cut on the line above, keep the top portion for your records and return this lower portion to Mr. Hall.

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Student Name

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Parent Signature

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Date

Please provide me with a current email address so I can send you weekly grade reports: Thx!

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_