



August, 2023

Dear students and parents/guardians,

Welcome to Math 8! I hope that you and your families are well at this time. Students who are successful in this class will take Algebra I next year.

Overview of Mathematical Categories & Subtopics Covered

- Unit 1 – Rigid Transformations and Congruence:** Describe and perform translations, rotations, and reflections on a grid; determine whether two figures are congruent using rigid transformations, and use transformations and angle relationships created by a transversal with parallel lines to determine unknown measurements
- Unit 2 – Dilation, Similarity, and Introducing Slope:** Describe dilations in terms of their center and scale factor; dilate figures on and off coordinate plane; identify similar figures and properties of similar figures using transformations; explain slope in terms of similar triangles on same line and determine slopes of given lines
- Unit 3 – Proportional and Linear Relationships:** Compare proportional relationships using their equations, tables, and graphs; interpret the intercepts and slope of a graph or equation of a linear relationship; use the concept that a graph represents all solutions of an equation to solve problems
- Unit 4 – Linear Equations and Linear Systems:** Write and solve linear equations; use graphs and algebraic methods to solve systems of linear equations in two variables
- Unit 5 – Functions and Volume:** Determine whether or not graphs, tables, or rules represent functions; create and interpret graphs of functions that represent stories; calculate and compare volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres; use the relationships between height, radius, and volume to calculate missing dimensions
- Unit 6 – Exponents and Scientific Notation:** Identify and create equivalent expressions involving positive, negative, and zero exponents; express and perform operations with very large or very small quantities using powers of 10 and scientific notation
- Unit 7 – The Pythagorean Theorem and Irrational Numbers:** Understand that square roots and cube roots represent the edge lengths of squares and cubes, and approximate their values; use the Pythagorean theorem and its converse to reason about right triangles and find unknown measurements; determine fractions and decimal approximations for rational and irrational numbers
- Unit 8 – Association in Data:** Examine different ways to organize bivariate data (scatter plots & two-way tables); use scatter plots and fitted lines to analyze numerical data and identify associations; use two-way tables and bar graphs to identify associations in categorical data

Website/Canvas Information

Go to the School Directory tab at the [DMS website](#), click on "Teachers", and scroll down to Triggs, Michelle. Click on my name, and it will take you to my site. You also can click on: [link to Triggs' website](#). My website contains links for grading rubrics, strategies for helping your student, & much more! Your Math 8 Canvas course contains unit overviews and assessment reviews, weekly agendas, daily assignments, additional practice, and more. Your Canvas classroom is accessible through CLEVER. Parents may sign up to access their child's Canvas classroom.

Textbook & On-line Programs

This course uses McGraw-Hill's *California Math Course 3 – Common Core Edition*. To access the on-line textbook, use the CLEVER link on the DMS website. Students use their school log-in information. Students also will use i-Ready, which is accessible through CLEVER, Desmos, and Delta Math.

Grade Notification

Parents and students may check grade status and missing assignments on-line using Infinite Campus. I update grades at least once a week, and students should check their grades at least once a week.

Tutoring Availability

I offer after-school help from 2:30 until 3:30 p.m. in my classroom (715) at least once a week. Occasionally, a tutoring session may be cancelled. **Check my web site for a particular week's schedule.** Tutoring is only effective if the student actively seeks assistance from not only me, but from the other students in the room, and does additional problems until a concept is mastered.

Materials for the Classroom

- Students need to have at all times: **Pencils, pens, a highlighter, whiteboard markers, lined paper, graph paper, an eraser, a ruler, a protractor, a spiral notebook/composition book for note-taking, 3-ring binder with dividers or 8 folders to keep all paperwork (one folder for each unit of study).**
- Optional items: colored pencils, pencil sharpener with cover, tracing paper (parchment paper works well for this) & a scientific calculator (TI-30X IIS is a good one)

Work Policies and Expectations

- Check your school emails at least once a day. Use your **school email account** and/or **CANVAS** to send any messages to your teacher.
- Work must be submitted for all assignments, including those assigned online, such as Delta Math.
- All work is expected to be completed and turned in on time with the appropriate heading in the upper right-hand corner of the page: First and last name, Date assigned, Period, and Title of Assignment.
- Late assignments will receive at most 50% of the total assignment points. Papers with no names will receive at most 60% of total points.
- Expect a quiz or test at least once every two weeks. Have a book to read if you finish early. **Talking is not permitted while the class is testing, whether you are finished or not, and will result in a score of at most 50% on that test or quiz. The only exception is if the student is speaking to the teacher.**
- Students should be in their own seats when the bell rings at the beginning of class.
- Expect homework Monday through Thursday.

Not every homework assignment will be given a grade.

- A "**T**" means that the assignment was turned in, but not checked for accuracy or completion.
- A **blank** means the assignment has not been entered yet. Blanks do not affect the course grade.
- An "**M**" means the teacher either did not receive the assignment OR the paper had no name and needs to be claimed so it can be entered. An "M" score results in a score of "0" and is computed into the student's grade.

Absence Policy

- Students will be given two days for every excused absent day to make-up work, tests, or quizzes *with the exception* that long-term assignments are due the day on which the student returns.
- Students are responsible for copying notes from a friend, checking CANVAS for any assignments that were assigned and/or any possible changes, and for setting up a time to make up any missed tests or quizzes after school within an appropriate time frame.
- **If students are absent due to a school activity, such as chorus, band, leadership, etc., any work that is due on that day must be turned in on that day to receive full credit.**

Mathematical Practices students will be required to do:

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

Other Information

Daily Routine

Homework turned in
Warm-ups
Lesson/Activity of Day
Turn in materials/Summary

Classroom Expectations

Come prepared to work.
Respect yourself and others.
(No put-downs. ☺)
Take responsibility for your learning and actions.
Strive for your personal best.

Classroom Goals

Challenge yourself to go beyond
basic expectations.
Develop strategies for success.

Grading Policy

Assessments (informal and formal) – 75%
Math Practices (homework, class participation,
& discussions) – 15%
I-Ready – 5%
Math Progress (district performance tasks &
assessments) – 5%

Grading Scale

A (90 – 100)
B (80 – 89)
C (70 – 79)
D (60 – 69)
F (0 – 59)

Consequences for Disrupting Class

1st Warning
2nd Student/Teacher Conference & Parent/Guardian
Notification
3rd E-mail Home, & Detention Notification Slip
Sent Home for Parent/Guardian Signature
4th Office Referral & E-mail Home

Retest Policy (Every assessment does not have a retest.)

Retests must be taken at the designated times.

To be eligible to take a retest, the student must complete all prerequisite assignments.

The highest score a student can earn on a retest is 90% (an A-).

Please feel free to call me at 951-699-8138 x1715 or send me an e-mail at mtriggs@tvusd.us if you have any questions or concerns.

Looking forward to a fantastic year,

Ms. Triggs