

Geometry Syllabus—Ms. Merritt 2016-17

Prerequisite: A prerequisite for this course is passing all Algebra 1 proficiencies. In this course, students will write and solve algebraic equations relating to geometry concepts as well as explore geometry concepts related to graphs of lines. Algebra skills will be necessary to write and solve these equations.

Bring to class everyday: Pencil or pen, notebook with prior geometry homework, a scientific calculator (not a cell phone.)

Recommended Calculator: TI 30 XII

Course Structure: This class is organized around rich, meaningful daily problems and investigations that lead to deep conceptual understanding of the underlying mathematics in a very deliberate and purposeful structure. Daily work consists of inquiry, as opposed to teacher transmission of procedure that is followed by rote practice and memorization. The emphasis of the course is on reasoning, critical analysis, mathematical modeling and gathering evidence; students are active participants in their learning. There are fewer problems than in a typical math book, allowing for perseverance and more concentration on the math. The problems are regularly non-routine, team-worthy, engaging and ask for a variety of outcomes. Extensive justification of thinking and communication of mathematical arguments are constantly expected. Students are encouraged to investigate concepts and consider problem solving strategies by sharing information, opinions and expertise in collaborative study teams.

Student Class Work Expectations:

- Students will regularly be required to work collaboratively in teacher-designated teams.
- As teams need the focus of all team members to be the most successful, there will be periods of class time when students will be required to only talk with their team and not other teams. During those periods of time, students will also be required to only talk about the task at hand with their team.
- Student questions to the teacher will rarely be met with a “yes” or “no”, “right/wrong”, “the way you should solve this is...”. The philosophy behind the curriculum dictates the teacher ask what the team understands about the problem, what the team has tried, and make sure everyone in the team is an active participant. The teacher may then follow with suggestions or more questions that hint at how to solve the problem.
- Students should expect to regularly learn new concepts with the teacher serving as a coach to help teams and individuals solve different types of problems. Students can also expect to struggle while learning new concepts. While it is understood that the struggle may be uncomfortable, students are expected to stay on task and persevere

with their team to understand. When people learn and practice in a new way, which may include struggle, it grows their brain and solidifies learning.

Online Homework Help: At the following website, you will find some of the problems worked out step-by-step. Others may have hints or answers.

<http://www.cpm.org/students/homework/>

Textbook Used: Core Connections Geometry, which is part of the CPM (College Preparatory Mathematics) series.

Individual Teacher Help: My door is always open for students before school between 8:00 and 8:45. I will also be preparing for the day, but students are welcome to work on their math and ask questions. I am also typically available on late-start Wednesdays between 9:00 and 9:45. As students need to make up ELT's, they can set up appointments to get the help they need.

Late Work: *It is often necessary to have prerequisite knowledge to learn mathematics. Please work hard to ensure you stay caught up with homework so skills and knowledge from prior assignments are in place to build on a daily basis.* Homework is most often due the day after it is assigned. If homework is turned in a day or two after I collect it, I will not consider it late. If homework is turned in more than two school days after it is collected, it will be considered late and docked one point. If homework is turned in more than three weeks late, it will be worth half credit.

High School Graduation Math Requirements: All students need a minimum of six math credits which is 3 full years of math. This means freshmen taking Geometry will also take Algebra 2, Statistics and/or Pre-calc (Calculus optional.) If you are a sophomore in Geometry you will meet graduation requirements by taking Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2. We encourage all CAHPS students to take four years of math to be college and career ready.

Grading: Grades are based on assignments, classwork, quizzes, and Essential Learning Target tests. Essential Learning Target tests (ELT's) are approximately 60% of your grade and the rest is worth 40% of your grade. You must also earn 70% or better on every ELT to earn a grade other than an "I" or Incomplete.

Viewing Your Grade: Please regularly visit <http://synergy.district6.org/> and check your grade. If you are unable to log on to Synergy, contact our CAHPS office or email lisa.vansickle@district6.org. Remember that turning in an assignment does not mean that it will immediately show up in Synergy. Please be patient. Grades will typically be entered within a week. If you believe there is an error in Synergy, please let me know so that I can investigate the problem.

Contact Me: Email me at kara.merritt@district6.org. If you prefer a phone call, call the CAHPS main office and let them know that you would like a call from me.

Essential Learning Target Test Policies:

- **In order to earn a grade other than “I” you must earn 70% or better on each ELT.**
- ELT’s can be retaken, if needed to achieve 70%.
- Students must earn at least 60% for homework assigned during the unit before they may retake an ELT.
- Students must show proof of preparation before they may retake an ELT.
- The test you get for a retake will be different than the first test but will be the same in content.
- All tests must be completed in one sitting. The original test must be completed before leaving class and test retakes must be completed all in one sitting. When retaking a test, be sure to find a period of time in which you are able to complete the entire test.

For the past several years, CAHPS has had a math Summer Program. That program may not be available in June 2017. To be sure you are able to move to the next level of math next year, please focus on passing all ELT’s in the appropriate time frame.

Geometry Classroom Behavior

Classroom Expectation 1: Be respectful to fellow students as well as the teacher.

- Be on time and come ready to work. In the event that you do come in late, be respectful to others and the teacher by quietly finding your way to your seat without disrupting others.
- When given time to work on math or when given a group math task, *everyone* is expected to participate. Be respectful to others by staying on task until all students have finished. Good discussions related to solving problems are necessary for individuals and groups to be successful, but irrelevant conversations can hinder your success as well as your group’s success.
- As teams need the focus of all team members to be the most successful, there will be periods of time when students will be required to only talk with their team and not other teams. During those periods of time, students will also be required to only talk about the task at hand with their team.
- Be respectful of others when instruction is given. While I am instructing, I expect no side conversations except when I ask students to discuss math concepts with partners or neighbors.

Classroom Expectation 2: No Cell Phones or Mp3 Players.

- Cell phones must be on silent and out of sight for the duration of my class.
- Music devices must be out of sight and ear buds must also be put away for the duration of the class.

PARENTS

- **If you need to contact your student for an emergency** or other reason during the school day, PLEASE call the school phone number (541) 494-5260 and your student will be contacted. Please do **not** call or text your student's cell number during class because it causes disruptions to your student's and other student's learning.
- **The simplest way to reach me** is by email (*rene.moser@district6.org*); times that I am most available for parents are before school between 8:00 -8:50 AM and during my first period prep on M T Th F. I can usually respond to your email within 2 working days. **For student help outside of class, I am available most days (except Fridays) before school (8:00-8:45 AM) and weekdays after school (3:45 – 4:30 PM).**
- **Office hours for math help will be posted outside each mathematics classroom. Each teacher will share the tutoring and test retaking responsibilities by being available in their classroom one day after school from 3:45 to 4:45.** The CAHPS math department will strive to provide math help time every Monday through Thursday after school.

GEOMETRY SYLLABUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Note: Please read this syllabus carefully and sign it, have your parents/guardians read it and sign it, and return this portion to me by Monday, 9/19 **Be sure to place the rest of this document into your binder for Geometry.**

I have read and understand the course expectations and policies:

Print Student Name (Please print neatly)

Student Signature

You, your daughter/son, and I are partners in your student's education. You can help him/her succeed by checking with them as often as possible about their progress and looking with them at their assignment completion and/or needs. Please also plan on attending parent/student teacher conferences. Contact me any time with questions or concerns.

Parent/Guardian Signature
neatly

Parent/Guardian Email – please print

Best Phone Number(s) to reach you First preference: _____
Second option (if available): _____

It is often easiest to call during the day. Is it okay to call you at work if there is something I would like or need to talk to you about your student? *Circle one* Yes No

If yes, work number: _____