

Westchester Lutheran School
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8th Grade Pre-Algebra Math Syllabus

A CA Standards-Based Approach to Instruction: “Symbolic reasoning and calculations with symbols are central in algebra. Through the study of algebra, a student develops an understanding of the symbolic language of mathematics and the sciences. In addition, algebraic skills and concepts are developed and used in a wide variety of problem-solving situations” (Retrieved from the CA State Board of Education Math Content Standards at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/mathstandard.pdf>).

Textbook: Prentice-Hall Mathematics—*Pre-Algebra* (2007)

Contents:

- Chapter 1— Algebraic Expressions and Integers
- Chapter 2—Solving One-Step Equations and Inequalities
- Chapter 3—Decimals and Equations
- Chapter 4—Factors, Fractions, and Exponents
- Chapter 5—Operations with Fractions
- Chapter 6—Ratios, Proportions, and Percents
- Chapter 7—Solving Equations and Inequalities
- Chapter 8—Linear Functions and Graphing
- Chapter 9— Spatial Thinking
- Chapter 10—Area and Volume
- Chapter 11—Right Triangles in Algebra
- Chapter 12—Data Analysis and Probability
- Chapter 13—Nonlinear Functions and Polynomials

There are chapter web codes on page xxiii in the textbook. These web codes can be used online to access student lesson tutorials, the textbook, homework video tutorials, lesson quizzes, practice worksheets, chapter tests, and vocabulary quizzes. Go to PHSchool.com, enter the web code, and click “Go!”.

Homework Policy: Homework will be assigned each day. Students need to complete all homework problems assigned to them neatly on lined paper, writing the problem, showing the work, and boxing the answer. Sometimes homework will be in the form of a practice worksheet or a project. If an assignment is incomplete or not turned in on the day it is due, no point will be given towards the assignment. Students will receive 1 point for each day of homework that is complete and has corrections on it. Each week has a possibility of 5 total points. Students will receive one weekly homework score. This policy serves the purpose of encouraging students to practice concepts they learned without the unnecessary pressure or anxiety that often is associated with being graded on the number correct. Students learn from their mistakes when we correct it together in class. This is a form of self-assessment that promotes student learning.

Weekly Homework Scores:

5/5 =100%

4/5=80%

3/5=60%

2/5=40%

1/5=20%

0/5=0%

Grade Distribution:

Homework: 25%

Chapter Tests: 40%

Midterm/Final: 15%

Quizzes: 20%

Reward Coupons: Each class will have a Homework Rewards Chart to monitor homework completion. Homework is considered completed when it has the problem clearly written, the work is clearly shown to solve the problem, the answer is boxed, and the homework assignment is corrected in class by the student. Each week that a student completes all of the homework assignments, the student will earn a sticker for the week on the Homework Rewards Chart. After a student earns 5 stickers, he or she will earn one homework pass coupon to be used during any quarter. Only one homework pass coupon can be earned during any given quarter. At the end of the quarter, if a student has a sticker for each week on the quarter, then he or she will receive a 5% Extra Credit Quiz Coupon to be used towards any one quiz score. The reward sticker cycle starts over at the beginning of each quarter. At the end of the 1st Semester, students who completed all homework assignments for the first and second quarter will be invited to a pizza party in the math classroom. At the end of the 2nd Semester, students who completed all homework assignments for the third and fourth quarter will be invited to a pizza party in the math classroom.

Each week, the math website will have a daily list of quizzes, tests, and lessons. Please check the website at <http://www.wlcs.org/MSmath/hmwrksheetalgebra.htm>. Sometimes it is necessary to change the assignments and test/quiz dates. Check your child's planner for an accurate listing of assignments and test/quiz dates.

Please contact me via email should you have any questions or concerns.