

August 22, 2011

Dear Student and Parent or Guardian,

Welcome to Sarasota School of Arts and Sciences Math 1. In Math 1, students are taught a variety of concepts which implement differentiated instruction. In the past, my students have demonstrated a substantial annual gain in their comprehension of mathematic skills.

I am sending home a copy of the syllabus, which is also located on the schools website next to my name at: <http://www.ssas.org/Teachers/Teachers.htm>

I am anticipating a year where students are excited and confident that they can excel in math this year! I look forward to meeting all of you.

Yours truly,

Mr. Sellars

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**Mr. Sellars--- Math Course 1**  
**Sarasota School of Arts and Sciences**  
**6th Grade MATH – 2011-2012**  
[davidsellars@ssas.org](mailto:davidsellars@ssas.org)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Middle School Math 1 is a challenging and exciting course. We will stress improving our ability to read, write, listen, and communicate mathematics. We will incorporate the standards covered on FCAT throughout the year. Students will apply concepts and skills to real-world problems that reflect our global society. Our ultimate goal is to master the skills, concepts, and strategies that will make all students successful this year and in preparation for seventh grade.

**MATERIALS:**

4 Red, Duo-Tang Pocket Folders; 4 Sharpened Pencils, in "readiness form" before class; Regulation size notebook paper; if home budget allows, Mr. Sellars' extras, which benefit the kids: 1 Giant Bag of Plain M&M's per semester –plain, because of allergies of some kids; 2 Kleenex boxes (1 regular rectangular and one cube-shape box) and from every student, if possible, \$1.00 in an envelope with the student's name printed and class period; this is used for me to buy the same size bag for each student for our first class project in the first Quarter – of course, after the one day class project, they will be allowed to eat their own M&M's!!!

### **TEXTBOOK:**

Florida Math Connects, Glencoe McGraw-Hill (Course 1) - Students will have a “Home Text” provided for the year as well as the desk copy. Advanced math class will use: Holt Mathematics Course 1

### **CURRICULUM ORDER:**

Quarter 1: Multiply and Divide Decimals, Multiply and Divide Fractions, Data Analysis

Quarter 2: Ratio and Rates, Fractions, Decimals, Percents, and Algebraic Expressions

Quarter 3: Solve Equations, Functions and Inequalities, Use Formulas in Geometry

Quarter 4: Measurement Volume and Surface Area, Integers, Operations with Rational Numbers . . . As time allows, all classes will be introduced to Pre-Algebra (Advanced Classes will get to Pre-Algebra and as time allows, an introduction to Algebra I).

### **GRADES:**

(Grades are posted on [www.edline.com](http://www.edline.com), weekly)

35% Tests

30% Quizzes

15% Class Work

15% Homework

5% Bell Work

### **HOMEWORK:**

Homework is to be completed on clean sheets of notebook paper and labeled properly. Homework must show recopied problem and show each step of the work needed to solve the problem. Complete all work in pencil (no ink pens please.) Homework will be checked at the beginning of class on the following day. Late homework will not be graded; however, it is still due (or consequences).

### **CLASSROOM PROCEDURES:**

#### • **ENTERING THE CLASSROOM:**

- Five items allowed on your desk. These include your textbook, notebook, open agenda, 2-4 sharp pencils and the assignment on which you are working.
- Restroom and water needs should be addressed prior to entering the classroom.

- Immediate silence is expected upon entering the classroom as they follow the list on the wall of “daily items to be on the desk” (and nothing else); then, they will also instantly start the bell-work that will be on the board (all this should take about 5 minutes).
  - Please, no questions (except emergencies) should be ask as they enter the room (simply, starting the things mentioned above). Their question or concern will be addressed, with their raised hand (no speaking out), after we have finished the initial starting assignments of the first 5 minutes.
- **WHILE IN THE CLASSROOM:**
    - No student is allowed to disrupt the learning environment; therefore, students are not allowed to “blurt out” questions (nor, of course, talk/whisper or do anything distracting to themselves or others).
    - Questions are strongly encouraged as well as class participation, each student will be called on when he or she has a raised hand; however, in order to know if some students are paying attention or I want to hear from every student, some will be called on even if their hand is not raised
    - There will usually be time to start the new assignment and in some cases, complete work.
    - Each students must always have a book or other work to do when his or her class work / home work is complete.

**LEAVING THE CLASSROOM:**

- Each class will be dismissed by Mr. Sellars, not the bell.
- Students will push in their chair, pick up all trash around them (floor and desk), and stand behind their chair until dismissed.

- **“GIVE ME FIVE”:**

When the teacher signals for “Give Me Five”, all students are required to do as the posters say:

- EYES ON TEACHER
- BE SILENT
- BE STILL
- EMPTY HANDS
- LISTEN

**RESTROOM AND WATER:**

All students have a water and restroom break every fifty minutes (meaning, they have at least 5 opportunities a day to take those necessary breaks, rather than having to go during class instruction time) therefore, students may leave only when there is an absolute emergency. If there is a unique or special circumstance please send a note into the office and me. Students may not leave while I am teaching the lesson.

### **MAKE-UP WORK WHEN ABSENT:**

- Assignments and class worksheets will be in the correct class period bin behind the door.
  - Missed tests or quizzes will not be made up during a class. Please make arrangements with me to make up missed work (usually at 8:00 a.m. --- they go to “early care” in the cafeteria, I will come down at 8:00 and one more time at 8:10 for “last call” for make-ups.
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### **SSA+S DISCIPLINE PLAN**

1st Offense: “THE LOOK” or verbal warning

2nd Offense: Student must copy “Student Contract” from the Agenda – and  
SIGNED BY THE PARENT.

3rd Offense: Student must write a Behavior Essay (with or without detention  
which is at the discretion of each teacher) and SIGNED BY THE PARENT.

4th Offense: In-school morning detention. \*Student or parent refusal for students to write classroom rules or behavior, and also a refusal to serve a morning detention will be considered a 5th Offense.

\*\*If an offense, at the discretion of the teacher, is severe enough, the first two steps can be omitted, resulting in the third step, along with a phone call from the teacher.

### **REWARDS: (my personal preference for motivating effort and positive behavior)**

Praise

Pride in the intrinsic value of knowing you did your best.

Hugs, smiles, and praise from proud parents!

“Joy of Learning”

And of course, a Mr. Sellars favorite (just 7-10 **M&M’s**, which always brings on a smile!)

### **WISH LIST:**

1 used, discarded, or no longer needed from home:

2 working table lamps with shades or floor lamps (to possibly spray paint – colors to fit our new building, red, black, or gray).

1 used, space saving type of podium, lectern, or even heavy duty music stand that will hold the weight of teacher text and notebook, to serve as a teaching center.

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Parents/Guardians,

Please sign and return this page, and return it to Mr. Sellars before August 26, 2011 . . . **“My child and I have read and understand Mr. Sellars’ expectations”**:

Parents/guardians **signature**: \_\_\_\_\_

Student’s **printed name**: \_\_\_\_\_

Student’s math Period: \_\_\_\_\_