

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 with 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 very exciting year, and I look forward to meeting all of you.

Yours truly,

Ms. Specht

Ms. Specht--- Math Course 1
Sarasota School of Arts and Sciences
6th Grade MATH – 2011-2012
karlaspecht@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 (optional: plastic sharpener)
Regulation size notebook paper

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.

CURRICULUM ORDER

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

Quarter 2: Ratios 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

GRADES

(Grades are posted on 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.

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.
- Questions and other concerns will be addressed by the teacher when you have first raised your hand.

- **WHILE IN THE CLASSROOM:**

- No student is allowed to disrupt the learning environment; therefore, students are not allowed to “blurt out” questions.
- Questions are strongly encouraged as well as class participation, so each student will be called on when he or she has a raised hand.
- 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 Ms. Specht, 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 to 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; 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.

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

1. Praise
2. Pride in the intrinsic value of knowing you did your best.
3. Hugs, smiles, and praise from proud parents!
4. "Joy of Learning"

WISH LIST

Electric pencil sharpeners, simple calculators, scissors, poster board, colored pencils, markers, construction paper, cardstock, tape dispensers and/or tape, staplers, dry erase markers and erasers, glue sticks.

Parents/Guardians,

Please sign and return this bottom portion of the Math 1 course description and return it to Ms. Specht before August 26, 2011. My child and I have read and understand Ms. Specht's expectations.

Parents/guardians signature: _____

Student's signature: _____