

ONYX Core- Ms. Pham - Room 508

Voice mail: 393-9227 ext.73508

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MATH HELP: Tuesdays, 3:05 - 4:00PM

Welcome to Essentials for Algebra! I hope that you will find our class to be a great learning experience - one that will be both challenging and fun. This year we will study many math concepts involving operations with numbers, algebra and functions, mathematical reasoning and more to correspond with the California Common Core standards for 8th grade Math (www.cde.ca.gov) and to prepare you for the challenges of Algebra. I look forward to working with you as we explore this awesome world of math! Please read this sheet with your parents/guardians and **KEEP IT AS THE LAST PAGE OF THE MATH SECTION OF YOUR BINDER.**

- **TEXTBOOKS:** We will be using two textbooks this year, one to be kept at home (Glencoe Algebra Readiness, a hardback text), and one to be brought to school each day (SpringBoard Mathematics with Meaning, a paperwork text/workbook.) You will also have two smaller Glencoe workbooks for skills practice and extension challenges. We will keep these smaller workbooks in class and only tear out pages as needed.
- **CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:**
 - I expect you to RESPECT everyone in the class.
 - I expect you to TRY HARD.
 - I expect you to ASK if you do not understand an idea.
 - I expect you to COMMUNICATE with one another and me.
 - I expect you to SHOW YOUR WORK!
 - I expect you to HAVE FUN with math!!!!
- **HOMEWORK:**
 - Homework is an important part of being a successful mathematician because it allows you to explore math independently and provides practice, review and/or background information for new material.
 - All homework should be attempted, and for assignments that aren't complete, Guided Study will be assigned that day. ***Learning from mistakes is important for mastering a concept, so you will be expected to check answers at home and correct your homework EVERYDAY. Be sure to ask questions, and understand any mistakes before moving on to the next assignment!!!***
 - Daily homework assignments do not always count directly towards your grade, but we will grade a few assignments and may have occasional "homework and notes quizzes" also, which means it will be important to stay organized!
- **EXTRA HELP:** It is important to ask for help when needed. I encourage you to **ASK QUESTIONS** in class. If you are not comfortable doing so, please stay after class to ask or see me at nutrition. I will also be holding the **Onyx Core Guided Study on Tuesdays** so feel free to drop in any time between 3:05 – 4PM for math help as needed. There will also be Homework Club in the library from 3:30 – 4:30 M-Th, with a teacher supervising.

Additional online resources to refer to for help at home:

- <http://new.schoolnotes.com/mspham> (For HW & upcoming assignments)
- <http://www.smpl.org> >> Research Tools >> More Databases>> Student Resources>>Brainfuse (Santa Monica Library online live tutors to help with homework help from 1pm – 10pm)
- <http://my.hrw.com> (For video tutorials, Algebra textbook, and practice quiz/tests)
- <http://www.khanacademy.org> (For video tutorials)

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➤ **GRADING POLICY:**

- The total number of points you accumulate throughout the semester will determine your grade.

$$\frac{\text{total \#of points earned}}{\text{total \# of points possible}}$$

- The majority of the points will come from **quizzes through the units**, but projects, interactive Cornell notes, class assignments, some homework, and groupwork will also be a part of your grade. There will also be Unit Tests periodically throughout the semester. (You will receive advance notice so you can have the opportunity to review and study.)
- If you fail a quiz or test, you will have the opportunity to complete corrections to raise that grade to a passing grade (70%). To do so, you must complete corrections showing the correct work AND a written explanation as to why you made the mistake. You must also attend math tutoring with Ms. Pham to check the corrections for credit.
- Late work will lose 10% off the first day it is late and 50% off the second day it is late. No late work will be accepted after 2 days unless previously arranged.
- Grades will be available online at the Lincoln Middle School Website, www.lincoln.smmusd.org, by clicking on "Grade Check" under the "Parent" menu at the top of the site. (Your parents will receive information about creating accounts.) You are expected to track your progress by checking online grades regularly.

➤ **ABSENCES: YOU** are responsible for making up notes, work, and quizzes/tests when you are absent.

- Call your study buddies from class for notes and assignments when absent. You should have TWO study buddies for this class. Record your study buddy contact info in your binder reminder.
- Check <http://new.schoolnotes.com/mspham> for nightly homework.
- See Ms. Pham right away upon your return from an absence to arrange for any make-up quizzes, tests, in-class assignments, or anything else your Study Buddy could not provide.
- **After 2 days following an absence, quizzes and all assignments that are not made up will earn a "zero".**

Thank you in advance for your dedication and enthusiasm, I look forward to a great year! Remember that only YOU can decide to give your best effort, and as long as you do that, you WILL be successful! If at any time there is *anything* I can help with, ***please let me know – I am here to help you reach your goals!***

Sincerely,

Ms. Vy Pham

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After reading the class information letter, please sign and return this form to Ms. Pham when supplies are due on Wednesday, September 7th.

PRINT STUDENT NAME: _____

I have read the Onyx Core Algebra information letter and understand my responsibilities for this class.

Student Signature:

Parent /Guardian Signature:

BEST PARENT CONTACT:

Name: _____, Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

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