

I am pleased to have you in my Course 3 class this year. My goal is to help you achieve your potential in understanding and applying the 8th grade Mathematics Common Core Standards. A primary focus of this course will be algebra as you study linear functions and equations, and connect your knowledge to other areas such as statistics and geometry. If you, or your family, ever have questions or concerns about this class, please contact me as soon as possible. If you don't understand a concept or how to apply it, please let me know so that I can give you some additional instructions. I want you to be successful and know that you can be, if you persevere, work hard, and believe in yourself.

I believe that you, as well as all students in our classrooms, deserve an excellent educational environment that allows you the opportunity to learn without disruption. In order to provide this climate in the classroom, I have established the following classroom expectations.

Classroom Norms

Students are expected to exhibit behavior which exemplifies the seven pillars of Cougar Character.

Class Policies

- Cell phones should be OFF and out of sight during class.
- No food, drink or gum.
- Come to class prepared to work. Bring all materials daily. (See “Materials Recommended”)
- Take care of all school property. Students will be held accountable for damage/breakage.
- Remain in the classroom unless given permission to leave.
- Students are to remain in their seats until dismissed by the teacher.
- Keep hands, feet, and objects to self.
- Copy classwork/homework assignments daily into the agenda.
- Use pencil for homework, quizzes, and tests.

If a student chooses to violate any of these policies/norms or exhibits behavior which compromises the learning environment in the classroom, the discipline policy will be utilized.

Discipline Policy

- Warning; counsel with student one-on-one
- Initiation of Due Process Form
 - Step 1: Official warning; parent notification
 - Step 2: Intervention; parent notification
 - Step 3: Class suspension; parent notification
 - Step 4: Referral to vice principal; parent notification
- As outlined in the School Policies, certain misbehaviors may bypass the above stages and student may be suspended from class and/or referred to the vice principal immediately.

Cheating

Cheating will not be tolerated. Students caught cheating will receive zero credit for the assignment (this includes, but is not limited to, homework, classwork, quizzes, and tests), will not be allowed to redo the assignment, and will receive a step on the due process form. Additionally, students caught cheating on a quiz or test may be suspended. Students allowing their work to be copied are just as guilty of cheating as students who do the copying.

Attendance

Attendance is a vital component of your success in this course. Students are expected to attend class daily and participate. Students must be in their seats when the bell rings or they will be considered tardy. Tardies will be dealt with as outlined in the school discipline policy. Additionally, tardies will affect a student's citizenship grade.

If a student is absent, check Google Classroom for the assignment. It is the student's responsibility to find out what assignments they have missed and make them up in a timely fashion; absent homework is accepted within two days of a student's absence without a point penalty if completed with all work shown. Check Google Classroom for notes on the day(s) you are absent. Early dismissals due to extra-curricular activities are due the following day and will not be counted as absent. Check before you leave for the activity. Students can make up a missing test or quiz the day they get back in class, or the following day. **Absent students can best stay on top of their work by using their interactive textbook at home to cover any missing pages, accessing the notes in Google Classroom and completing any homework that is assigned, depending on how they feel.**

Materials Recommended

-Spiral notebooks for notes & showing work
-Pencils (2+)
-Correcting Pens (suggest red)
-Highlighters (different colors)

-Pencil sharpener (handheld)
-Graph Paper
-Colored Pencils
-Ruler (6+ inches)

-Scientific Calculator (Phones will **NOT** be allowed to be used for calculator)

**We recognize that many families wish to provide supplies for their own student or donate materials to the school and are welcome to do so at any time. The supplies listed are suggested materials and are not required of any student or family to fully participate in the school's academic program. All required materials and supplies will be provided by schools to students at no cost.*

These materials are recommended to be restocked as necessary throughout the year. It is your responsibility to have these materials in class each day.

Homework

- **Homework assignments will be posted in Google Classroom and should be completed and corrected nightly using a correcting pen) before coming into class the next day.** All homework solutions are posted in Google Classroom. Since the class period is approximately 50 minutes long, students need to enter the class prepared and ready to ask questions.
- Homework will be assigned nightly, including some weekends. Corrected homework will be graded for completion daily. Complete your homework in your spiral notebook, consumable workbook or packet as instructed and do not tear the pages out. All notes and example problems should be written in your spiral notebook, workbook or packet. **Homework without work shown, as per examples shown in class, will be counted as incomplete and will receive a score of '0'. No work shown= no credit earned.**
- If students have questions or difficulties with homework, they should check their notes for a similar type of sample problem or refer online to the posted homework solutions. Additionally, they might call a study partner from class for assistance. If that doesn't help, the student should copy the problem and write down any information they think might be helpful in solving the problem. Students should then circle the number of the problem on their paper and be sure to ask about the problem in class the next day. **Papers that don't follow this procedure will be treated as incomplete and receive a score of '0'.**
- All long-term assignments must be turned in on the due date. If the student is absent, the assignment is due on the first day the student returns to school.
- All late work must be turned in before the end of the chapter to receive full credit. Once the chapter is completed, no credit will be given for the late work.

Homework and your grade

Homework is practice of newly learned concepts, students should not be penalized for incorrect answers on their homework; that is the reason homework is graded for **completion only (no work= no credit; student MUST show ALL**

their steps to earn full credit). This method of grading does have its caveats. Students could receive all of the homework points and yet not understand any of the concepts. This situation would probably be reflected on their quiz/test scores, resulting in a lower grade than might be expected based on homework scores. To minimize this happening, it is imperative that all students follow the expectations for homework corrections. Students are expected to use a red correcting pen to correct their homework each night BEFORE coming to class the following day. ALL homework answers and worked out solutions are available online in Google Classroom. Students should ask questions about problems they don't understand and copy the correct method for completing the problem on their paper. Later, students should try to redo the problems they missed. If they have difficulty, they should refer to the correct method they wrote on their paper to help them recall the concept. If they still have difficulty, they should highlight that problem and ask about it again the next day. If students are having a lot of difficulty with the concepts, they should schedule a time to meet with me for additional help in advisory.

Grades

“I do not give grades...you EARN them.”

Coursework will consist of classwork, homework, quizzes, and tests. The overall class grade is weighted as follows:

Homework, Classwork, & Quizzes = 20%
Tests = 80%

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A = 93.0% - 99% (A+=100% or above)	A- = 90.0%-92.9%	B+ = 88.0%-89.9%	B = 83.0%-87.9%
B- = 80.0% - 82.9%	C+ = 78.0%-79.9%	C = 73.0% - 77.9%	C- = 70.0%-72.9%
D+ = 68.0% - 69.9%	D = 63.0% - 67.9%	D- = 60.0%-62.9%	F = less than 60.0%

Grades can be accessed online at <http://powerschool.fcusd.org>

Grades will be updated on a regular basis.

Please take advantage of this option to keep track of your progress.

IMPORTANT: Do NOT check Google Classroom to view your overall grade in this class. While some grades may be posted there, POWERSCHOOL is the program you need to be checking weekly to keep track of your grade. POWERSCHOOL is the place to see if you have any missing assignments and how you are doing in the class.

Citizenship

- (Outstanding) = The student exhibits social qualities that enhance the learning environment. This will include, but is not limited to, helping others on a regular basis, class participation, prepared, always on time, attentive, respectful of others and property.
- S (Satisfactory) = The student exhibits social qualities that are conducive to a safe and successful learning environment. This will include, but is not limited to, class participation, prepared, always on time, attentive, respectful of others and property.
- N (Needs Improvement) = The student exhibits social qualities that are sometimes not conducive to a safe and successful learning environment. This will include, but is not limited to, tardies, not having required materials, inappropriate behavior.
- U (Unsatisfactory) = The student exhibits social qualities that are not conducive to a safe and successful learning environment.

Retake Policy

Any student who scores below a 80% is eligible for a retake for up to a B- (80%). Students are responsible for notifying the teacher that they want to retake a test; your grade is your responsibility. Retakes are usually given during lunch within 2 weeks of the original test date. **NOTE:** In order to do a retake, students must complete any missing homework from the chapter/unit, and provide evidence of understanding previous topics that were challenging (by correcting the test and making sure to show all work) AND make an appointment with the teacher, in advance of the retake date, to show evidence of completed work and test corrections and get additional help.

Extra Help

I encourage students to ask for help during class time; however, I am also available for additional help during Advisory, by appointment. If a student needs individual help, he or she can speak with me at the end of class or send me an email to schedule time during advisory.

Communication

Students and parents are welcome to email me with any questions or concerns. I usually respond to emails within 24 hours Monday-Friday.

Parents/Guardians: If you ever have any questions or concerns please contact me ASAP. The best way to reach me is via email jfreitas@fcusd.org . I am looking forward to a wonderful year.

Sincerely,
Ms. Freitas
Math Teacher
jfreitas@fcusd.org

Please complete Acknowledgement of Policies

either online [CLICK HERE](#)

OR

by printing the following page, completing it, signing it, and returning it to
Ms. Freitas by Friday, August 20, 2021.

Acknowledgement of Policies

**Fill out Google Form and submit by
Friday, August 20th , 2021**

OR

**print this form, complete it, sign it, and return to Ms. Freitas by Friday, August 20,
2021**

I have read and understand all of the policies and expectations for Ms. Freitas' math class.

Student Name (Please Print)

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Address

Parent/Guardian Phone Number

Parents/Guardians: If I should need to contact you during the day, please print clearly the first and last name and phone number of the parent/guardian I should contact. If you have no preference, please list both. Thank you.

Parent/Guardian Name

Relationship

Daytime Phone Number

Parent/Guardian E-mail address

Parent/Guardian Name

Relationship

Daytime Phone Number

Parent/Guardian E-mail address