

MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH SYLLABUS

semester 1

Welcome to a fabulous year of math at Magnolia Student Center! Welcome to Team Straus!

My name is Ms. Straus and I love teaching! I have a Bachelor's of Arts, Bachelor's of Education, and a Master's of Education in Curriculum and Instruction. I was named Michigan Charter School Teacher of the Year in 2007. You can read all about me at 'Meet Coach Straus' at <http://www.teamstraus.com>

My goal for students is to explore and think collaboratively with others about math so that students get better at describing their own mathematical thinking. I hope students develop confidence, knowledge, and techniques so that they can approach and solve everyday problems mathematically.

Please read the information below carefully so that you may be the best that you can be in math this year.

Classroom Expectations

1. Respect, respect, respect!
2. Raise your hand (fingers) and wait for permission to speak or leave your seat.
3. Follow instructions and directions the first time they are given.
4. Be prepared, responsible, and ready to complete your best work.
5. Follow our Math Social Contract.

Consequences

1st time: warning

3rd time: parent contact

2nd time: stay after class to talk

4th time: Friday detention during elective

Tests and Quizzes

Each unit will have a mid-unit quiz and end-of-unit test. Students are responsible for using their notes to study for the mid-unit quiz. Review packages and solutions for end-of-unit tests are available at <http://www.teamstraus.com>. Students may also have a quiz on Fridays on the previous week's material. Students MUST study for these quizzes and it is expected that students are reviewing their daily math notes each night. Graded tests must be signed and returned by a parent within 2 days or students have detention until the test is returned.

All students have the option of retaking a test after school IF a) the student has turned in all

homework for that unit; b) a Math Retake Form (available at <http://www.teamstraus.com>) is submitted within 2 days of the original test being returned; c) the student attends at least 1 tutoring session before the retake test. Students with less than a B- on a test are highly encouraged to do a retake. Dates for retakes are announced in class and posted at <http://www.teamstraus.com> (under Team Schedule).

Home Study

Students will complete their online ST Math and Xtramath assignments using the usernames given in class. Passwords will be given in class. As Magnolia is a computer-based school, it is an office expectation that all students have access to a computer - at home, a local library, or the computer in the office at school. As such, all students must complete their online assignment each Monday. Students MUST also be reviewing their math notes and studying for quizzes and tests during Monday Home Study. Students must also be working on mastering their grade level I CANs on Mondays (please see <http://www.teamstraus.com> I Cans for more information).

How Parents Can Help

- ☞ Please check your child's grades regularly on Jupiter Grades (sign up for weekly emails)
- ☞ Ensure that your child is doing their homework each night and checking the solutions. Questions that students get wrong should be tried again.
- ☞ Encourage your child to watch the lesson videos and take lesson quizzes at [teamstraus.com](http://www.teamstraus.com)
- ☞ Make sure that your child is reviewing their math notes each night and studying for tests - you can check the dates for tests by using the Team Schedule at the math classroom website.
- ☞ Make sure your child completes their Monday Home Study work.
- ☞ Follow our math twitter feed (@Ms_Straus) for updates on what we're doing in math class

Homework

Homework is assigned to give students an opportunity to practice and apply the concepts learned in class. It is not assigned as 'busy work'. All homework must be completed and corrected - this will help you better understand material - which will better help you on tests and quizzes.

Homework is assigned on most nights, including Fridays. It is posted on the homework board in class, written in agendas, listed on moodle, and available for download (copies and solutions) at the math classroom website: <http://www.teamstraus.com>. Homework is due the following day unless special instructions are given. Ms. Straus will stamp homework completed and accepted.

Homework is graded on whether the assignment was completed, as opposed to the percentage

of questions correct. In order to receive credit, neatness, organization and complete step-by-step solutions to problems are expected. Answers are posted on the math classroom website. Homework is checked at the beginning of each class and must be turned in the appropriate way (check the blue chart when you enter class). Ms. Straus will stamp your homework if it is complete and counts for full credit.

Parents may 'sign-off' on math homework that has been attempted for 30 minutes and students will be given credit. Students may then come in with the assignment during morning tutoring to receive help to ensure understanding.

Supplies

-pens (blue & red)	-pencils	-pencil case	-pencil sharpener
-ruler	-glue sticks	-colored pencils	-highlighter
-eraser	-coil notebook	-dry erase markers	

Wish List for classrooms

-hand sanitizer	-disinfectant wipes	-tissue boxes	-lined paper
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Notebooks

Math notes, classwork, and homework must all be glued into math notebooks using appropriate procedures (as posted in the classroom). Notebooks will be spontaneously collected for grading on any given day.

Notebooks are graded on completeness (are all notes and homework there?) and neatness (are all notebook procedures followed?). Feedback comments may be written in notebooks by Ms. Straus and students must respond to written feedback by the following notebook check.

Getting Help and Contacting Ms. Straus

The math classroom website has MANY resources to help you with each lesson. You should write questions you cannot solve on your homework in the dugout (front board) when you enter class so that the whole class can review the question. You can also attend tutoring on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 7:15-7:45 a.m. Ms. Straus can be contacted by email (amy.straus@riverspringscharter.org) and telephone/text ().

Website Materials

You will find MANY resources that will help you at: <http://www.teamstraus.com>:

✂ text chapters	✂ online videos	✂ games	✂ lesson quizzes
✂ homework copies	✂ homework solutions		

Curriculum

The curriculum is based on the 6th, 7th, and Algebra 1 California State Standards which can be found at <http://www.teamstraus> under I Cans.

Grading

Grading Scale
A: 90-100%
B: 80-89%
C: 70-79%
D: 60-69%
F: 0-59%

Grade Break-Down
Homework/Classwork: 25%
Home Study: 15%
Participation: 10%
Projects, Tests, Quizzes: 50%

Grades are updated weekly on Fridays after school on Jupiter Grades.

I am looking forward to a great year,

Ms. Amy Straus, M.Ed.

Middle School Math Teacher - Magnolia Student Center

amy.straus@riverspringscharter.org

Twitter: @Ms_Straus

<http://www.teamstraus.com>

Please cut, sign, and return:



Student Name: _____ Period: _____

I have read and understand the requirements for math class. I have looked through the website and know where to find the homework, solutions, extra help, grades, and test dates.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Is there anything I need to know about your child in order to make this a successful year?

*Please remember that students can print ANY class material off the website using the office computer and printer.