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Dr. Peltier's Math Expectations

Welcome to Algebra 8R, I am looking forward to having a great year with you! It is important to me for everyone to have the best learning experience possible. I have the expectation that you will strive to meet several goals.

I. **Gain a base of mathematical knowledge.**
Throughout this course, you will be exposed to a variety of mathematical ideas and concepts. The understanding of these ideas and concepts is important. What you learn in class is the base of knowledge that you will draw from as you take other courses and progress through your everyday life.

II. **Make connections between math concepts studied in class and everyday life.**
Every day, all around us, things go on that we do not fully understand. By looking for patterns and making connections between what we learn in the classroom and the world around us, we allow ourselves to better understand our environment.

III. **Become a problem solver and critical thinker.**
Through the study of math, you develop problem solving and critical thinking skills. These skills that you develop will not only help you in your academic studies, but also as you make decisions in your everyday life.

IV. **Always put forth your best effort.**
Throughout the course, you will be asked to complete various activities and assignments. You will work both individually and in groups. It is important to give your best effort in order to succeed. Your classmates will also be depending on you. We all make mistakes (myself included!), don't let that hold you back, it's part of the process!

The topics we will cover this year include:
- Linear relationships and functions
- Inverse relationships and functions
- Exponential relationships and functions
- Transformational geometry
- Systems of equations
- Quadratic relationships and functions
- Radical and rational expressions

Materials: You must be prepared for class when you enter the room. Your supplies should include a 3-ring binder, a spiral graph paper notebook, textbook, pencil(s) with eraser(s), colored pen/marker for correcting, scientific calculator, and a ruler. If you cannot obtain a calculator please let me know, iPads are **NOT** to be used as a calculator.

Web Site: My website, **www.drpmath.com**, lists learning objectives, agendas, and homework for each class. On the site you will find links to all handouts, the textbook, and additional resources as well as puzzles and games.

Absences: It is your responsibility to find out what work you have missed, and complete it in a timely manner (usually one extra day for each day absent). Missed work includes classwork as well as homework. When absent the first place to check should be my website. Handouts are available in the "While You Were Out" folders in class as well as for download from my website.

Extra Help: My after school hours are on Tuesdays and Thursdays unless otherwise noted in class. I am often available most days before and after school and you are welcome to come then; just check with me to make sure that I do not have another commitment. I am accessible via email until about 10 pm on weeknights and on weekends to answer questions and provide help.

Warm Ups: Every day, when you enter the room, you are expected to sit in your assigned seat, and begin the Warm Up assignment immediately. The assignment will posted on the board.

Homework/Assignments: Homework is an extremely important form of practice, and will be assigned most every night. It is your responsibility to copy the assignment down each day. Homework is graded on effort and completeness. The question must be either written out or paraphrased in your answer, and all work must be shown. Where necessary, a check must be shown. Homework should not take you more than 45 minutes a night. If an assignment is taking you longer, please email me or have your parent sign off at the bottom of the work you have completed.

Homework will be checked periodically in class for a grade to be entered in the gradebook.

Homework Grading Rubric:

5 – Complete, includes questions and all work
4 – Complete, work not shown/questions not written out
3 – Not all problems done/ homework is late
2 – Minimal work done
0 – Missing assignment (you can earn a 3 by showing me your work late)

Tests/Quizzes: A quiz or a test will be given roughly every seven to ten days. Quizzes will cover parts of a unit and tests will cover whole units. To be successful on tests and quizzes it is necessary to have a deep understanding of the material so that you can apply it to new types of problems, just a recall of the information is not sufficient.

Test/Quiz Grading Rubric (all questions 5 points unless otherwise noted):

5 - Correct, all thinking shown, complete and clearly presented
4 - Correct, sound reasoning with a careless error, such as labeling incorrectly
3 - Computation/basic-skill error but shows sound reasoning or correct with more thinking needed
2 - Multiple errors made, or incorrect with hard to follow thinking, or correct with no thinking shown when needed
1 - Weak understanding of concept being tested or incorrect with little or no thinking shown
0 - Question is left blank

Basic Skills - Throwback Thursdays: In order to be truly successful in math, you need to have a solid foundation in basic math skills. Upon entering this class, it is assumed you can add, subtract, multiply and divide whole numbers, decimals, fractions, and mixed numbers, as well as calculate percents and proportions. If you are not confident about your skills in any of these areas, I can direct you towards online resources and I am available before or after school for help. Each Thursday, the warm up will be a 5 question quiz on basic skills or topics that have been previously covered in this class or from 6th or 7th grade. There is no partial credit. For most of these, calculators will not be allowed.

Classwork: In class it is expected that you actively engage in classwork, allow yourself to take mathematical risks, work cooperatively with your group to produce a quality product, use precise mathematical language, and participate in class discussions.

Writing: It is important that you are able to communicate your understanding of the concepts we cover. Open response questions (ORQ's) will be assigned periodically and will be graded on a 0-4 scale similar to MCAS open responses. These will be counted as a Writing grade.

<u>Open Response Grading Rubric</u>

Grade	Description of Work
4 – 100%	Thinking clearly explained by: • describing steps used to solve problem • including **specific** math vocabulary • including words from the question Work clearly shown through computations, diagrams, or tables/charts All parts of the answer are labeled if needed ("a" "b") Answer/Computations are correct with proper units
3 – 90%	Thinking clearly explained by: • describing steps used to solve problem • including some math vocabulary • including words from the question Some work shown through computations diagrams, or tables/charts Parts of the answer are labeled ("a" "b") Computations are correct, units missing
2 – 80%	Explanation is not clear, little writing Minimal math vocabulary Steps to solve problem are out of order Work not shown, or work is difficult to follow All parts of the question not answered Computations and/or answer are incorrect
1 – 70%	No explanation of thinking Incorrect or no math vocabulary used Directions not followed Computations and answer are incorrect
0 – 60%	No explanation of thinking Answer is not related to the question No work shown Blank

Term Grades:

Calculation Based on:

Homework	5%
Basic Skills (TBT's)	10%
Writing/Notebook Quiz	10%
Classwork	15%
Quizzes/Projects	25%
Tests	35%
	100%

Your letter grade will be assigned according to the following scale:

97% - 100%	=	A+ (all graded assessments must also be 97% or above)
93% - 96%	=	A
90% - 92%	=	A-
87% - 89%	=	B+
83% - 86%	=	B
80% - 82%	=	B-
77% - 79%	=	C+
73% - 76%	=	C
70% - 72%	=	C-
67% - 69%	=	D+
63% - 66%	=	D
60% - 62%	=	D-
59% & below	=	F

Your final year grade will be calculated by one of two methods, whichever makes the class average the highest.

Method 1: Q1 (22.5%) + Q2 (22.5%) + Q3 (22.5%) + Q4 (22.5%) + Final Exam (10%).

Method 2: Q1 (15%) + Q2 (20%) + Q3 (25%) + Q4 (30%) + Final Exam (10%).

Overall, I expect a lot from you, just as you should expect a lot from me. I am looking forward to having a great year, and I hope you are too!

Sincerely,

Dr. Peltier

I have read and understand Dr. Peltier's Math Expectations Sheet.

_____   _____
Student Signature   Parent/Guardian Signature

Please keep this packet in your notebook for reference.