

Algebra 8 Class Information and Expectations

Welcome to Algebra 8, 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. Throughout the year, 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!

Materials: You must be prepared for class when you enter the room. Your supplies should include:

- 3-ring binder
 - spiral graph paper notebook
 - textbook
 - pencil(s) with eraser(s), colored pen/marker for correcting
 - ruler
 - scientific calculator, iPads are **NOT** to be used as a calculator.
- If you cannot obtain a calculator please let me know.

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 (most important) 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.

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. 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.

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 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. FLEX period is also a great time to get additional support.

Homework/Assignments: Homework is an extremely important form of practice, and will be assigned most nights. 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 should be included. Homework will be checked periodically in class for a grade to be entered in the gradebook.

If an assignment is taking longer than expected, it is your responsibility to identify what it is you do not understand, email me before 8 am the day it is due with a written **explanation** as to why a specific problem(s) is/are incomplete, and come for extra help. You will be given full credit for incomplete assignments if you follow this protocol.

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
- 0 – Missing assignment (you can earn a 3 by showing me your work late)

iPads: iPads are **not** to be out unless specific instructions have been given about their use.

Term Grades:

Calculation Based on:

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

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. All work/thinking must be shown for full credit. 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 Retakes: Retakes are available for the first three terms. You can earn up to an 80% for the assessment by averaging your two scores. More details will be available in class.

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

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

Warm Ups: Every day, when you enter the room, you are expected to sit in your assigned seat, take out your math notebook and begin the Warm Up assignment that is posted on the board.

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.

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, 1 point (10%) will be deducted for late assignments. These will be counted as a Writing grade.

Open Response Grading Rubric

Grade	Description of Work
4 A+	Thinking clearly explained by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 B+	Thinking clearly explained by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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

Grade	Description of Work
2 C+	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 D+	Minimal explanation of thinking Incorrect or no math vocabulary used Directions not followed Computations and answer are incorrect
0 F	No explanation of thinking Answer is not related to the question No work shown Blank

My parent/guardian and I have both read and understand Dr. Peltier's Algebra 8 Class Information and Expectations.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Please keep this in your notebook for reference.