



Mrs. Alaimo
Math 7/Math 7 Adv– Room B18
Oak Mountain Middle School 2017-2018
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“Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off the goal.”
~Anon

Dear Students & Parents,

I am very excited to be your Math 7/Math 7 Advanced teacher for the 2017-2018 school year! In following the OMMS motto, I expect “nothing but the best” from each of my students. Success can be achieved in my classroom through hard work, dedication, and responsibility. My goal is to enhance my students’ understanding of how mathematical topics are related and to provide them with new skills that can be used to improve their ability to solve problems. Most importantly I want to encourage them to become more confident in their own mathematical abilities.

The organization of my classroom will be reviewed in class, but I ask you to also read over it **thoroughly** as a family. Please return the [Team Acknowledgement Page](#) to me and complete the 7th grade Red Team google survey (<https://goo.gl/forms/b9mnJaZyKLS1Nda92>) and the Math survey (<https://goo.gl/forms/JwaBkdz7EbaFBojq1>) by **Thursday, August 10th** (failure to do so will result in a detention, per school policy). Your understanding of the following information is vital in creating a positive and productive learning atmosphere in my classroom in which students can feel confident and are focused on learning. I thank you for your cooperation.

Contacting me

For more immediate contact, please e-mail me at jalaimo@shelbyed.org. I will do my best to respond, if needed, within 24 hours. However, if you would like to schedule a conference, please call the front office at 682-5210, and the office staff will assist you.

We are continuing to increase the use of technology in and out of our classrooms here at OMMS to conserve materials and provide additional resources as well as to better serve you and your child. I will be posting information on my blog and use google classroom to help the students and expect for the students to use these resources. If students do not have access to internet or printing at home, they will have an opportunity to use the facilities in the media center to print at a small cost.

General Classroom Information

Materials: The following is a list of materials that my students will need to bring **EVERY DAY**:



1. Blank Notebook Paper
2. 4 Composition Notebooks for taking notes and warm-up problems (1 per nine weeks) labeled with the following information:
 - a. Name (first and last)
 - b. Math course, period
 - c. My Name
 - d. Corresponding Nine Weeks
3. Writing utensils for taking notes (at least two blue or black pens, two mechanical pencils, and two green pens)
 - a. Notes may be taken in blue/black pen or pencil while the green pen is only for grading assignments. Homework may only be completed in pencil.
4. 2-pocket folder with brads
5. Textbook
6. Agenda

Additional Materials: The following materials are not required, but the donation of one item would be greatly appreciated and shared with the team.

1. Kleenex
2. Paper Towels
3. Hand Sanitizer

Classroom Expectations, Consequences and Procedures

Classroom Expectations

1. BE PROMPT: Be in your seat ready to learn when the bell rings. Otherwise, you are tardy.
2. BE PREPARED: Have your classroom materials with you daily.
3. HAVE PERMISSION: Raise your hand for permission to speak or to leave your seat.
4. BE RESPECTFUL: Respect yourself and others by keeping your hands, feet, and comments to yourself.
5. FOLLOW DIRECTIONS: Listen and follow directions the first time they are given.
6. DO YOUR BEST: Your best is expected at all times because you are receiving my best.
7. Follow all OMMS and Shelby County codes of conduct and rules.

Consequences

Expectations will be explained in full detail during the first week of class. This explanation will be considered the “first warning.” Consequences for breaking rules will begin upon the first offense, and will proceed as follows:

- 1st offense: Verbal Warning/Reminder of rule
- 2nd offense: “Last out” rule – stay after class to receive consequence (clean room, etc.)
- 3rd offense: Detention
- 4th offense: Call to parents/conference

**At any time, these steps may be skipped at Mrs. Alaimo’s discretion.*

Classroom Procedures:

A. Beginning of Class

*****Items 1-4 below should be completed before the bell rings. Otherwise you are considered tardy.**

1. Enter prepared, quietly, and sit in your assigned seat.
2. Copy the week’s homework assignments and announcements (side board) into your agenda.
3. Have your pencil and green pen ready.
4. Begin working on the bell ringer (do not wait for the bell to ring).
5. Complete the bell ringer questions quietly and individually.
6. When you finish, you may check over your homework or sit quietly.

B. During Class

1. The daily format for most days will be as follows:
 - Discuss bell ringer
 - Grade & discuss homework (Most assignments will be graded for accuracy using a 10-point scale.)
 - Notes, activity, or teacher-directed learning on new topic
 - Work on homework if time permits
2. Copy everything I write on the board into your notes (in your composition notebook).
3. Raise your hand to request permission and wait to be called upon before speaking.
4. Complete work in a timely manner.
5. Stay in your seat.
6. No eating, drinking, or chewing gum in this class.

C. End of Class

1. Continue working until you completely finish your assignment or unless you are instructed to stop.
2. Clean the area around your desk, making sure all trash is picked up and thrown away when you leave.
3. Walk out of the room taking all of your belongings with you.
4. You are dismissed as you hear Mrs. Alaimo say the phrase, “Have a great day!”



NEED HELP?

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|--|--|
| ~Ask questions in class. | ~Review your notes. |
| ~Post a question on my blog. | ~Ask a friend for hints – NOT answers! |
| ~Use the odd answers in the back of the book. | ~Ask your parents. |
| ~Use the online homework help with the textbook. | ~Read the book. |
| ~Go to “Think Tank.” (Come to my room before school between 7:15 and 7:40a.m. You must have the pass I gave you or a signed note from a parent.) | |

Strive to be “Nothing but the BEST” this year!!!

Assessment:



1. **Homework** – Homework will be assigned daily unless otherwise noted. Assignments for the upcoming week will be posted on the side board in the classroom and on the class blog. Homework will be due the following day graded for accuracy unless otherwise noted. Assignments will be graded on a 10-point or a 25-point scale and are classified as a **BRONZE** grade counting towards **10%** of your overall average. You **MUST SHOW ALL OF YOUR WORK** and it must be legible in order to receive credit.
 - a. **Give your best effort** on all homework assignments, and be sure to **check over your work**.
 - b. Be neat and include the following for each problem:
 - i. Make sure you number and write/copy each problem.
 - ii. Circle or box your answers.
 - iii. Leave space between the problems.
 - iv. Put MLA heading and assignment at the top of your homework. See “Discrepancy in Grading.”
 - c. Answers only will not be accepted. All problems **must** be attempted to receive credit. If you do not have your homework in the classroom on the day that it is due before the class bell, I will be following the OMMS E.A.E.T. policy for missing or incomplete work.
 - i. The signature AND completed assignment must be turned in before **7:50 a.m. the following school day for 60% of the earned grade**.
 - ii. If the student still fails to turn in the assignment, the student will be referred to Academic Saturday School to complete the assignment, where it can be completed for **50% of the earned grade**.
 - iii. Note: This will take place for the first, second, and third occurrences per nine weeks; however, on the fourth and following occurrences, the student will automatically be referred to Saturday School.
2. **Quizzes** – pop quizzes may be given at any time. Most quizzes will be announced. Classified as a **SILVER** grade counting towards **30%** of your overall average.
3. **Tests** – unit tests and cumulative tests will be given. All tests will be announced several days in advance. Tests will be kept on file in the classroom. All tests and projects are classified as **GOLD** grades counting towards **60%** of your overall average.
4. **Notebook tests** – will be given during each nine-week grading period. These will be open-note tests that will reward you for keeping your warm-ups and notes up-to-date and organized.
5. **Projects** – one per nine-week grading period.
6. **Extra Credit** – students will have opportunities to receive extra credit throughout each nine weeks. Extra credit must be turned in on or before the due date – no exceptions.

Additional Information:

1. **Discrepancy in Grading** – All of your homework, assignments, etc. for each nine weeks should be kept in your composition book until the end of the school year. You are to keep your grade sheet up-to-date (kept in the front of your composition notebook) that will be a grade each nine weeks. By doing these things, you should have a clear picture of what your grade is at all times. If you receive a grade on your report card that is different than what you expect, showing me your old papers (properly labeled) could improve your grade.
2. **Make-up Work** – each student is responsible for making up work that was missed including bell ringers, notes, homework assignments, quizzes, tests, and projects. Work must be made up in accordance with the rules set forth in the Shelby County Code of Conduct. Work not submitted within the time limit will receive a grade of zero. **It is the student’s responsibility to check on the blog or with me regarding missed assignments, notes, and bell ringers.**
3. **Think Tank** – I will be available every morning between 7:15 – 7:40 a.m. Students will be given a “Think Tank” pass in order to come to my room. Students need to come prepared with questions and attempted problems in order for me to help everyone effectively and efficiently.
4. **Hall Passes** – No passes will be given during class except for an emergency or for something that I deem necessary. If passes are given, students must return within a reasonable length of time. Please use the time between classes to gather all of your necessary supplies for class, use the restroom, conference with another teacher, talk to your friends, etc.
5. **Textbooks** – Students will sign out a textbook from me during the first week of school. It is the student’s responsibility to keep up with his/her book throughout the year. A fee will be charged for any lost or heavily damaged book at the end of the year.
6. **Emergency Procedures** – In the event of a tornado, fire, or other emergency situation, the teacher will follow the standard procedures noted by the Shelby County Code of Conduct and the school.

Technology:

1. **Personal devices** – Students are allowed to bring their own device to class provided that it is used for class purposes only. If a student misuses his/her device, he/she will lose the privilege of bringing a device to class. Students must adhere to team, school and county technology policies regarding personal devices.
2. **Websites & Applications** – I will be utilizing several websites and application to enhance the learning of my students. The following list of websites and applications and any similar websites and/or applications are available in the future will be used.
 - Socrative
 - Notability
 - Today's Meet
 - Nearpod
 - www.khanacademy.org
 - www.coolmath.com
 - www.youtube.com (education version)
3. **ONLINE TEXTBOOK** - See directions below to redeem and log into your student's version of their online textbook.
 - Website: <http://connected.mcgraw-hill.com>
 - Create New Account, Enter Appropriate Code, Click Register
 - MATH 7 Students → Add: Math Connects, Course 2 (Redemption Code: OJ6O-4YD9-EGYO)
 - Pre-Algebra 7 Students → Add: Pre-Algebra (Redemption Code: E9Z8-R28K-BEHO)
4. **GOOGLE CLASSROOM** - Students will have assignments provided to them through google classroom (internet based). They will log in with their shelbyed.org email address. We will use after the students go through media training at school.

Course Description & Concepts: Through this course students will master the basic math skills necessary for higher math and science courses. Students will develop problem-solving skills, learn to grow in mathematical communication, as well as develop critical thinking skills. The advanced course will aid in further preparing the students to transition to Algebra I. The course will include the following concepts to ensure students are career and college ready:

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|---|---------------------|-----------------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| ✓ Ratios and Proportional Relationships | ✓ The Number System | ✓ Expressions and Equations | ✓ Geometry | ✓ Statistics and Probability |
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Oak Mountain Middle School Mission Statement

Vision: To model and promote the behaviors necessary for academic and social success.

Mission: To expect and encourage nothing but the best in a nurturing, opportunity-rich environment.

Values:

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|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| • Teach the Whole Child | • Teach for Success | • Teach for Results | • Teach for Excellence | • Teach for the Future |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|

Our Staff Believes:

1. All students should be offered a variety of experiences to enhance their individual achievement and to develop them intellectually, emotionally, socially, and culturally.
2. A student's academic success is encouraged by positive relationships with teachers and staff who embrace diversity and high expectations.
3. Teachers should provide students with the tools needed to become self-directed learners with creative thinking skills.
4. Teachers have a responsibility to act as positive role models and provide a safe and caring environment to promote student learning.
5. Collaboration between the school, home and community are vital components of the school support team.

Oak Mountain Middle School Every Assignment Every Time (EAET) Policy

- **Philosophy:** Oak Mountain Middle School expects and encourages nothing but the best in each child. Teachers hold high expectations and provide students with the tools needed to become self-directed learners. Students are actively engaged in meaningful learning experiences which will prepare them to be productive citizens in our global society. The home and community are vital components of the school support team.
- **Policy:** Assignments are a vital component of a child's learning experience. Work is expected to be completed on time. Incomplete and/or poorly attempted assignments are not acceptable.

Procedure:

- If an assignment is incomplete, poorly attempted, or not submitted on time, the student will receive a notice requiring a parent signature and an opportunity to complete the assignment.
- Students who turn in the parent-signed notice and completed assignment on time the following school day (refer to EAET form) will receive 60% of the earned grade. Failure to do so results in an Academic Saturday School referral, and the assignment will be completed for 50% of the earned grade.
- Upon the fourth and subsequent EAET form (per subject, per grading period) the assignment may be completed for 50% of the earned grade, and the student will be automatically referred to Academic Saturday School.
- Long-term projects may be based on each teacher's rubric for the project, which will include penalties for late work.
- Core academic classes will follow this procedure while Physical Education and elective courses may have exceptions based on their course content.