

Middle School Math Handbook

Teacher: Mr. Bergman

School year: 2026-2027

Classroom Materials

- Bring to class every day: (Label your name on all of your personal items)
 - ☐ Agenda
 - ☐ Textbook (math class)
 - ☐ Math notebook (math class)
 - ☐ Pencil pouch
 - ☐ Pencils (at least three, sharpened *before* class)
 - ☐ A TI-30XIIS or TI-30Xa calculator
 - ☐ Red pens (at least two)
 - ☐ Pencil sharpener (preferred)
 - ☐ Eraser (if pencil does not have one)
 - ☐ Colored pencils (optional)
 - ☐ Homework folder
- What to have in your locker, and bring to class when instructed:
 - ☐ Anything else that is needed will be provided in the Math/Science Room
- What not to bring to class:
 - ☐ Anything distracting

Classroom Structure:

Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays
- Modesty Mondays - Look over last week's quiz - Lesson OR activity	- Lesson OR activity	- Lesson OR activity	- Lesson OR activity	- Weekly quiz/"speed run" (multiplication timed test) - Lesson OR activity

* This is just a general structure, subject to change as needed.

** Modesty Mondays: For the first five minutes of class on Mondays, I talk about the virtue of modesty and what I have learned about it from some good books I have read on the subject.

*** Topics covered in this class will typically be taught with one day of notes ("Lesson") followed by one day of some type of practice of the concept ("Activity"). The activity could range from a math game to a demonstration of math concepts with tangible objects.

Classroom Expectations:

- Be virtuous:
 - Charity: Love God and neighbor.
 - Respect: This includes everyone you meet in and out of the classroom and the building you have the gift of going to school in.
 - Diligence: studying and practicing God's commandments. In other words, do the work the Lord has entrusted you with.
 - Foresight: Come prepared for class and fill out the agenda.
 - Reverence: Demonstrate attentiveness and honor for what is sacred.
 - Humility: Recognize your belovedness. All good things are from the Lord. All failures are from us. Entrust your failures to the Lord's mercy and try again in love.
 - Justice: give others what is owed to them and respect their God-given dignity.
 - Forgiveness: Ask for it when needed. Give it when wrongs are done to you.
 - Courtesy and Etiquette: Stop and give eye contact when speaking to someone, speak clearly, greet others when you see them, be aware of the people around you!
 - Temperance: Demonstrate possession of self.
 - Modesty: Carry yourself with the dignity given to you by God. This is reflected in your actions, speech, and how you dress.
 - Fortitude: Endure in times of difficulty.
 - Stewardship: Give generously of your time and talents. Take care of the school building and provide for the needs of others.
- Late work
 - Students will be given two days to complete each assignment. I will go over one question from each of the assignments in class. I will not accept late work.
 - Homework is collected at the *beginning* of class, and is considered late if not turned in at the beginning of the class it was due in.
- Absent work
 - *Students are responsible for asking to make up for absent work.* Students who do not speak with me after an absence will not be able to receive the work they missed, resulting in a *zero* in the gradebook.
 - Students have as many days as they were absent to complete and turn in assignments.
 - Students may ask for homework in advance of a planned absence, but please note that if it is not possible for me to give the student the work prior to the absence, they will be given the absent work upon their return.
- Demerits: see middle school policy handbook. In general, failing to observe classroom expectations warrants a demerit. Students who show up repeatedly to class unprepared will receive demerits (this includes not bringing their agenda, pencils, the correct books,

and so on). They will receive one warning in the first week of school. Certain behaviors towards classmates or teachers may not warrant any warning prior to issuing a demerit.

- PowerSchool:
 - Check PowerSchool for communication of grades.
 - Zeros will be given for assignments that are not turned in on time.
 - I will input grades weekly. I will also send out weekly updates to parents of students who have zeroes in the gradebook.
- Bathrooms and water bottles:
 - Students may use the bathroom and fill up water bottles in between passing periods. Students may NOT use the bathroom during instruction time or while working with partners. If there is work time after instruction during class, students may ask to go to the bathroom during that time.
 - Water bottles should be clear.
- Pencil sharpening:
 - Students should bring at least three sharpened pencils to class. Pencils should be sharpened prior to the first day of school.
 - Students may bring their own handheld sharpener (this is preferred), but they may NOT lend it to classmates during instruction time (after instruction is fine).
 - Students may only use an electric sharpener before the bell and after instruction time.
 - I do not allow pens on math assignments. We all make mistakes and we need to be able to erase them.

Memory Work

- Students will memorize a number of things throughout the school year, including formulas, times tables, vocabulary related to math, and unit conversions. I do not currently have a list of what students will memorize throughout the year, but I will let you know via the weekly newsletter if there is something that I expect my students to memorize for math class that week.

Weekly Quiz/Speed Runs

- Every Friday, students will have a quiz over what we learned the past week.
- There will also be a few minutes to take “speed runs” (multiplication timed tests). For speed runs, I will give the students the first quarter to complete their 0-6 tables and the second quarter to complete their 7-12 tables. For a student to pass a times table, they must accurately compute at least 40 multiplication facts in one minute. The third and fourth quarters are TBD (I may make this a time to catch up on any tables not yet mastered, but I am not sure yet).

Parent Resources:

“Since parents have given children their life, they are bound by the most serious obligation to educate their offspring and therefore must be recognized as the primary and principal educators” (Gravissimum Educationis, 3).

Holy Days of Obligation *

- **Every Sunday**
- **Saturday, August 15, 2026:** Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (not obligatory this year because it falls on a Saturday this year)
- **Sunday, November 1, 2026:** Solemnity of All Saints (Observed as a regular Sunday obligation)
- **Tuesday, December 8, 2026:** Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
- **Friday, December 25, 2026:** Nativity of the Lord / Christmas
- **Friday, January 1, 2027:** Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

** Canon 1247: “On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass. Moreover, they are to abstain from those works and affairs which hinder the worship to be rendered to God, the joy proper to the Lord’s day, or the suitable relaxation of mind and body.”*

- I do not expect students to work on homework on Sundays and other Holy Days of Obligation. I will do my best to avoid weekend homework and will not give out assignments the day before a Holy Day.

Practical advice to help your kid with math:

- ☐ There is a misconception out there that the math which students learn today is supposedly “different” from a few decades ago. Math is the same; it is objective truth, which never changes. What has changed is the way it is taught. Do not believe that there is only one way to solve a math problem. There are *always* multiple valid angles of approach. Your student can find and choose the method that works best for them (just make sure I can see their thought process on paper, so I know they did not make it up).
- ☐ Limit screens. Live for what’s real!
- ☐ Read with and to your children every night. What you read matters. Fill their imaginations with good stories and not just graphic novels or stories that blur good and evil. Good reading comprehension helps with solving word problems in math.
- ☐ Rest on Sundays after Mass. And I mean, really rest on Sundays. Not entertainment, not binging, not scrolling, not online shopping, and not getting to all the things we couldn’t

get to during the week. Rest. Make and eat good food together, look at birds, enjoy the outdoors, write, draw, paint, sew, play cards, learn some Greek and Latin, play pickleball, write plays and act them out, study something that interests you, restore a sense of childlike wonder...restore your body and soul. Even the greatest mathematicians in the world need rest!

- ☐ Be courageous when talking to your kids about math! If you model that confident struggle, your kids will be more inclined to imitate that. Instead of saying, "I'm not good at math," say, "I'm not good at math *yet*."
- ☐ If your child needs help with math at home and you are not able to assist them, you can try out this link: <http://www.mrmathblog.com/>. If all else fails, do not hesitate to reach out!