

Welcome to Math with Dr. J!

I am honored to be your Math teacher this year. It is going to be a fun year of learning Mathematics and I am excited! Whether you're a returning student or a new student, we have great things ahead. I have developed a classroom discipline plan which will aid you in making good decisions about your behavior and thus have an opportunity to learn in a positive, nurturing classroom environment.

Discipline Plan

The information below outlines our classroom rules, positive rewards, and consequences for appropriate and inappropriate behavior.

Classroom Rules

- Always keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself
- R-E-S-P-E-C-T your teacher, yourself, your peers and the school's property
- Act in a responsible manner in everything you do
- Get organized and stay on task
- If given directions, follow them the first time
- Eating, drinking, chewing gum, and personal grooming are not permitted in class
- Student responsibilities are to be carried out daily

If You Choose to Break a Rule

First Time: Warning

Second Time: Parent Call

Third Time: Detention

Severe Disruption: Sent immediately to Dr. Blalock

Rewards

Praise (daily) 🙌

Positive notes/calls/emails home (random)

Various other positive perks (bonus cards)

The joy of learning math (every day of the school year) 😊

Classroom Procedures

Attendance

When students are absent from my class they miss a day of learning. Since each day's learning builds upon previous information and skills, it is CRUCIAL that students attend class regularly. Many learning activities employ cooperative learning strategies, partner work and group discussions. Students cannot benefit from these activities when they are not in attendance in my classroom.

Roll will be taken daily and ALL absences and tardies will be recorded.

All students who receive an excused absence will have as many days to make up their work as they missed.

Grades

Students will earn grades on quizzes/sprints, tests, homework, class participation, and talking station rubrics. Grades will be weighted as follows:

Test	60%
Sprints/Quizzes	25%
Classwork/Participation	10%
Homework	5%

All grades will be posted to Lincoln Parish Schools Progress Center as soon as the assignment is graded. This program allows parents/students to see all grades and averages for the current year using the weighting system below. For log in information contact the Lincoln Parish School Board, 255-1430.

Daily Reviews

Daily Reviews are CRUCIAL and they are an essential aid in helping students reinforce what was taught in the classroom. It is useful for preparing students for upcoming lessons and it helps students develop positive study habits.

I will assign a Daily Review Monday through Friday. The only exception will be testing days. Daily Reviews should take students no longer than 5 to 7 minutes to complete each day. Students should begin daily reviews as soon as class begins.

Please read and discuss the following Daily Review policies with your child:

1. Yes, Daily Reviews count! They will be checked biweekly!
2. Students are responsible for completing ALL Daily Reviews in a neat and thorough manner. Incomplete or unacceptable Daily Reviews will be redone. Credit will NOT be given for any late Daily Reviews.

3. If a student is absent they are still responsible for their Daily Review. They have as many days as they miss to make up their Daily Review. For example, if they miss two days, they have two days to make up their homework.
4. Extra-curricular activities and other nonacademic events will be second to your child's school responsibilities.

Please review these policies with your child. After doing so, please sign the contract attached to this packet and return to me Friday August 20, 2021. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this plan or any other matter concerning your child.

Scoring Rubric for Daily Review

All Daily Reviews were turned in:	_____	/50
Completed ALL problems in pencil:	_____	/15
ALL notes were taken with checking pen	_____	/25
ALL Notes and Work is legible	_____	/5
ALL Daily Reviews were placed in order	_____	/5
TOTAL:	_____	/100

Sprints

Sprints are a vital component of learning in the classroom. Sprints can be defined as a timed test. Sprints are given daily. Every Monday a new math topic is given. Students will be given two versions, an A and B version. On Friday of every week one of those versions will be the quiz.

Tests

Students will be tested after each topic. Students and parents will be reminded through REMIND. They will also be given review problems that will be on the test each week through their Daily Reviews. Students should use Agile Mind resources to prepare for tests at home. Quizzes and tests will ALWAYS be CUMULATIVE.

Agile Mind

This is the curriculum that students are using this year. Agile Mind can be used to support home-based learning. With a student's User ID and Password, families can log in to access the full curriculum, view lessons and tasks assigned, and monitor their child's participation and performance on assignments and quizzes. There are resources to support remote learning for families and students with Agile Mind. Please visit

<https://www.agilemind.com/learning-experience/remote-learning-for-families/> for a quick parent guide to understanding Agile Mind.

Students will receive a workbook to go along with the digital curriculum. Periodically checking the workbook is one way to keep track of what is going on in the classroom and to gauge student's understanding.

I encourage you to take the time out to understand the digital platform. It will make things so much easier for both you and your child. You can track their progress at any time. I highly encourage students to review lessons taught in class at home and to complete all practice questions prior to a test.

Part of your student's homework grade will be the progress from Agile Mind. Prior to a test, I will check student's progress on Agile Mind to ensure that they have been reviewing and practicing at home. A grade will be assigned for that progress.

Talking Station Rubrics

Discussion in student learning is critical to a student's success. Understanding is gained by experience and reflection. When we encounter something new, we have to reconcile it with previously held ideas or experiences, figuring out how to make sense of the new knowledge. In that process we become the active creators of our own knowledge rather than sponges just absorbing what others tell us. While our students can (usually) reproduce what we tell them, learning is not the process of hearing-remembering-repeating, even though repeating and remembering may well be a part of ultimate learning. To learn means to ask questions, challenge ideas, explore unfamiliar territory, come to clarity in our own terms. And what we ultimately want is for students to be able to come up with the questions themselves and learn to evaluate information on their own. And in order to do this for inexperienced small group learners a rubric will be given to each child evaluating their discussions. Rubric is attached.

All talking station rubrics will count as a test grade.

Each Occurrence of Unacceptable Behavior in a Talking Station Rubric will result in the following penalties:

- 1st Nine Weeks – 1 point
- 2nd Nine Weeks – 3 points
- 3rd Nine Weeks – 5 points
- 4th Nine Weeks – 10 points

Test Corrections

For every test taken in class, test corrections will always follow. Tests will be taken after the completion of every topic. The test corrections will come immediately following the results. These test corrections are a vital component of this class. They are NOT a replacement grade for the test. Whatever your child makes on the test stands! They are for your child to see what they have missed and give your child the opportunity to reflect and hopefully clear up any misconceptions they may or may not have about a standard. A test corrections template will be given to your child to fill out according to the questions he/she missed. This template consists of naming the problem/problems you missed, giving the correct answer, and explaining why you missed the problem/problems. A separate quiz grade will be given for test corrections.

The following is the rubric for all test corrections:

Scoring Rubric for Test Corrections:

ALL answers were corrected _____/25

ALL work was shown _____/25

ALL why's were given _____/25

Parent Signature _____/25

Total: _____/100

Use of Room/School Areas

In this classroom, students will work on tables. On these tables are tubs with supplies. These supplies are for each table of 4. At the end of each class the leader of each talking station will be expected to reorganize the tub and place all materials in the tub correctly. If anything is missing or needs to be resupplied it is the leaders' responsibility to let me know or restock from supplies in the classroom. Leaders will be chosen every Monday.

Entering the Classroom

Enter the classroom quietly. A Daily Review will be placed on the table in front of the door every day. Pick one up and head to your individual station. You will have ~5-7 minutes to complete the daily review by yourself. I need to see what you know at this point. If you are in need of a pencil, there will be pencils in the front of the classroom. There is no need to raise your hand. You may quietly get up and get a pencil. Since you are in Individual Station, you are to remain silent. If you have a question, quietly raise your hand and I will come to assist you.

Late Arrival Students

A.E. Phillips school policy states that all students who are tardy for a class will be expected to get a tardy pass from the office. No entry into the classroom will be allowed without a tardy pass. If you are late because a teacher or administrator was needing to speak with you, just make sure they write you a note for entrance into my classroom.

Stations

There are three stations in this classroom: **Individual Station, Talking Station and Group Station.**

- 1) Your Individual Station will be assigned on the first day of school. This station is for individual work only. This is your quiet time and for me to see what you know.
- 2) Your Talking Station will be assigned every Monday. There will be 3 or 4 students in each station, no more and no less. This station was created for you to work with your peers. Questioning, explaining, and listening are expected during this time. There will also be an elected leader each week. The voting will be done by each member of the talking station. This leader is expected to carry out multiple duties throughout the week.
- 3) Your Group Station is my time. This is a chance for teacher and student to come together for instruction. This is also a chance for you to ask questions. Seating arrangements for Group Station will be assigned the first full day of school.

Homework

There is an understood homework assignment to study LEAP cards every night. LEAP cards are a vital component to a student's understanding of the math content. LEAP card study time should be between 5 to 10 minutes every night. There will be one question on every test that will come straight from your LEAP cards.

Sharpening your Pencil

There will be many times throughout the year you will need to sharpen your pencil. There is a pencil sharpener located in the classroom. Being in middle school maturity is a requirement, you will not need to raise your hand to get up to sharpen a pencil. If the need arises, quietly get up to sharpen your pencil and quickly get seated at whatever station you are in at the time.

Early Finishers

If you finish early, all students have a collection of LEAP cards that you will need to study. These cards will begin being made on the 1st day of school. These cards are a collection of words that will help you improve your math vocabulary and to become successful with your LEAP 2025 test. This will not be a group effort if you are in Individual Station. Only during Talking Station may you play games with your peers.

When I need to get your Attention

There will be many times throughout the year that I will need to get your attention while you are in Talking Station. While I do promote talking in Talking Station, many times I will need to guide you differently or assess your knowledge or understanding of the topic through questioning. To get your attention, I will quietly raise my hand. Once you see my hand up you immediately stop talking and raise your hand. Once everyone's hand is raised and quiet, you may put your hand down and I will begin instruction.

Makeup Work

While I would love everyone not to miss school, I know that absenteeism is inevitable whether it be for sickness or school events. If you miss a day or days of school, I will have all of your makeup work in the folders attached to the board near the door under the sign "Absent?". I will also update Google classroom with digital copies of what you missed.

AE Phillips absentee policy states that you have as many days to makeup work as you miss. For example, if you miss one day you will have one day to complete the work. If you miss 3 days of school, you will have 3 days to complete your work. NOTE** If you miss a test day, you will make up the test upon returning to school. Test Corrections will be done at home for homework. If these are not completed it will be a zero.

Passing out Papers

After every test, papers from the prior two weeks will be passed out. These papers will need to be stapled together with your Detailed Progress Report on top. Passing out paper will be the responsibility of the leaders of the Talking Stations. All papers should be passed out quickly and quietly. If this is not done in a quiet and quick manner, your leader position may be taken away and reassigned to someone else.

Collection of Daily Reviews

Please ensure that a daily review rubric is stapled on top of your daily reviews and that they are in correct numerical order. The talking station leader should turn in all daily reviews for the table every two weeks. Everyone else should remain in their seat and wait on instructions.

Cell Phones/Smart watches

All cell phones must be turned off and in your backpack or the pocket provided in class. No smart watches should be worn to school. Phones/smart watches that are not in the classroom pocket and visible will be confiscated and turned to the office.

Bonus Cards

5 Bonus Cards will be in your pencil pouch on the 1st full day of school. These cards may be used for actual bonus points to be added into your final RAW average (before the percent is obtained), or they may be used for passes to go to the bathroom. You may accrue these cards over the course of the year and they may be used at your discretion.

You will have the opportunity to earn more bonus cards. Suggestions of how to earn more:

- 1) Respectfully showing or telling me a mistake that I may have made
- 2) Respectfully showing or telling another student a mistake that he/she may have made
- 3) Helping a student understand a problem using the proper techniques and/or vocabulary
- 4) Doing something out of the ordinary that is extraordinary

Bi Weekly Grades

All graded papers will be handed out following a test. Agile Mind reports can be viewed online. Along with bi weekly grades, I will also distribute a Detailed Progress Report. This report will allow you to see all grades for the current nine weeks. All papers will be required to be sent home and signed by a parent or guardian. Along with weekly grades, test corrections will also be sent home. Test corrections will require a parent signature. This signature will be counted as a homework assignment.

Please review the following policies with your child. After doing so, please sign the contract attached to this packet to acknowledge you have read and understand all procedures and rules. Return to me by tomorrow, 8/20/2021. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email at gjoseph@aephillips.latech.edu or call A.E. Phillips at **257-3469** if you have any questions about this plan or any other matter concerning your child.

Teacher/Parent/Student Contract

Sign where indicated and have your child return this page to class on Friday August 20, 2021.

I have read the documents listed below and understand the classroom policies contained within them.

- ✓ **Dr.J's Discipline Plan**
- ✓ **Dr.J's Classroom Procedures**

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Print Parent(s) Name

Student Signature

Date

Print Student Name

Teacher Signature

Remind Codes

These are the Remind codes for the school year 2021-2022

6th Grade:

Math 6-Accelerated Track: @math6-DrJ

7th Grade:

Math 7-Accelerated Track: @math7-DrJ

8th Grade:

Math 8-Accelerated Track: @math8-DrJ



These are the Google classroom codes for the school year 2021-2022

6th Grade: **zxqoc4d**

7th Grade: **fbhl7ik**

8th Grade: **zj2gsae**