

Welcome to Mrs. Seow's classroom!

I have the privilege of working with primary students in Reading, and Language Arts in the resource room and Math in regular stream with grades five and eight.

Prior to class commencing, I ask that students use the facilities and get drinks to prevent them missing any part of the lesson. This is more pertinent to math than the other subjects.

Since I consider the students members of a mini-family, I emphasize respect of self and others, organization, neatness and a strong work ethic. I am available to my students at any time with Tuesday afternoons being the standard assigned day for extra help after school.

Below I have mapped our activities and homework for each group I see.

#### Group 1

- uses the Edmark reading program, Handwriting without Tears, sound cards to recognize and spell short vowel words, Leap Frog to aid in the writing of upper and lower case letters and drawing of shapes, and flash cards to answer 'What and Who' questions.

#### Group 2

- uses Project Read for de-coding, Explode the Code, and SRA Reader and corresponding workbook to enhance phonemic awareness, word recognition and fluency. Homework includes reading every night for 20 minutes and one or two pages of Spelling. Reading is usually based on the current Reading lesson. However, Fridays is free a choice. This year, I've begun to use a spelling book as this gives the students an opportunity to use and see words in context in language rich text.
- In Language Arts their writing tasks are linked to the classroom projects. Students use the Four-square method to organize their brainstormed ideas. From that they write a cohesive well-organized piece which they then transpose onto the NEO work processor.

#### Group 3

- uses varied sources for Reading in order to decipher the main idea, important events, cause and effect, details, character traits and sequencing,

as well as to make inferences. Materials include the anthology, shorter fiction and non-fiction pieces and a daily comprehension piece used as homework for reinforcement. The units of the new vocabulary series are also used as for Spelling, which is part of the reading curriculum.

### 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math

I try to complete one section of a chapter each day. Homework is assigned M-F. A grade, which is factored into the final grade, is given for all completed homework assignments. Failure to complete homework results in a zero.

A chapter test is given at the end of each chapter. Students are informed at approximately three days in advance and parents are notified by email. Review problems assigned as homework. Students are also encouraged to review on their own in order to be successful. Please note, students are required to have their test so parents are aware of the earned grade.

As an insight into the areas we will be addressing, the following is a list of topics we hope to cover by June.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

The current series, Envision Math, is fairly new and covers:

1. numeration
2. adding & subtracting whole numbers and decimals
3. multiplying whole numbers
4. dividing by 1 and 2 digit divisors
5. multiplying and dividing decimals
6. shapes - angles, polygons, triangles, quadrilaterals
7. factors, fractions and equations
8. fractions and decimals
9. adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers
10. multiplying fractions and mixed numbers
11. perimeter and area
12. solids
13. measurement units, time and temperature
14. solving and writing equations and inequalities
15. ration and percents
16. equations and graphs
17. graphs and data
18. transformation, congruence, and symmetry

## 19. probability

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-Algebra

The current textbook is Prentice Hall Pre-Algebra

- 20. Algebraic Expressions and integers
- 21. Solving equations and inequalities
- 22. Factors, fractions and equations
- 23. Operations with Fractions
- 24. Ratios, proportions, percents
- 25. Linear functions and Graphing
- 26. Right triangles in Algebra
- 27. Data Analysis and Probability
- 28. Nonlinear Functions and Polynomials

In an effort to prepare students for the middle school, and eventually high school, I encourage them in the following:

1. Please use the bathroom BEFORE class starts as no one will be allowed to leave during class except for emergencies
2. Tuesdays after school is the assigned day when you may see me after school for extra help. I will be available every week on the assigned day when school ends.
3. BINDERS
  - a. everyone **MUST** have a binder dedicated to math and math only
  - b. it **MUST** be kept neat - no drawings, holes, rips, tears
  - c. all papers are to be on the rings, not shoved in
  - d. if you have trouble getting one I will give you one!!
  - e. papers will be in sequence by chapter and section
  - f. each topic must be numbered according to chapter and section
  - g. write on pages sequentially, not haphazardly throughout the binder
  - h. there will be periodic binder checks
4. CLASSROOM
  - a. come to class with any questions
  - b. quietly take assigned seats
  - c. complete the Problem of the Day (POD) if one is posted
  - d. take out your homework and something to correct it with
  - e. write in PENCIL *no pens allowed*

f. use a ruler when you must draw a line

## 5. HOMEWORK

- a. write chapter number followed by the page number in the upper left
- b. write date in upper right
- c. number the problem to the left of the margin
- d. write the problem (not word problems) and each step (show your work)
- e. **write in pencil** for neatness sake
- f. constitutes a grade and can make the difference in getting just that one grade higher
- g. failure to complete homework will result in parent notification
- h. homework is assigned everyday - it helps to reinforce what we do in class

## 6. TESTS

- a. if you need help, please see me prior to the day of the test and I will help you as much as I can
- b. a test is given at the end of every chapter, with time to study
- c. parents can be notified of upcoming tests if an email address is provided

7. Math can be a lot of fun. Sometimes you may not grasp the way it is taught. **If you do not understand, please do not be afraid say so. I will happily re-teach the concept. Chances are you are not the only one! My aim is for you to be successful in math.** Like everything else, you need to practice - or study - in order to be good at it. So, if you know a test is coming up - please study! I hope we will have an exciting and fun year.

I welcome any questions you may have as your child's success is of the utmost importance to me.