

Dear Parents and Students,

July 30, 2007

I am very excited about the year upon which we are about to embark! I know it is going to be a tremendous year of growth for our students. I would like to share some information with you now that will help get our year started.

First, a little bit about me. I received my B.A. in Psychology from The Ohio State University and my Elementary Education certification from Ashland University, also in Ohio. I taught middle school for 5 years and 5th grade for 3 years in public schools before staying home to raise my 2 children, Jake (4) and Olivia (2). For the past 3 years, I have been working at Covenant Christian Academy teaching science to elementary, intermediate, and middle school students. Throughout my entire teaching career, I have also tutored numerous students, ranging in age and ability level from elementary to high school, in all academic areas. I truly love teaching children and helping them in their thirst for knowledge and in making sense of the world in which they live.

Curriculum: For math, we will be using Grade 7 Fundamentals of Math by Bob Jones University Press. This text is laid out well and utilizes an effective spiraling technique throughout. It combines the introduction of new topics with review of older topics. The students will employ problem solving and real-life uses of math in order to reinforce computation skills and build a solid math foundation. In addition, I will supplement the curriculum with various pre-algebra activities in an effort to prepare the students for future algebra classes.

Supplies needed for math:

- Spiral notebook to be used exclusively for note-taking in class
- Paper/plastic folder
- Loose-leaf paper
- Pencils
- Calculator

Grades: Students will receive grades based on homework, class work, quizzes, tests, and special assignments. Since we will be covering a chapter approximately every 2 weeks, we will not have a test for every chapter. Instead, we will have tests that cover a few chapters at a time. Quizzes will be given more intermittently to assess knowledge gained over specific material within the chapters. There will be homework given each class period, and it is critical that this homework is completed and brought back to class each day. Since we have to move through the curriculum fairly quickly, it is essential that students are prepared when they arrive for class.

Parent responsibilities: As the parent of a middle school child, I can imagine that you are beginning to appreciate the independent abilities of your child. I know I would! Please continue to foster that sense of independence in your child. It will serve them well.

Unlike in the content areas, however, students may need more of your teaching and guidance throughout the week in math. If they don't understand a problem on Wednesday, for example, but wait to ask me about it in class on Monday, they have missed out on several days of quality work time. I would like them to come to you first for questions that come up during the time we are not together. If together you are still not able to come up with the correct process/solution, then skip that and try to move on. There is going to be a lot of work done between our class sessions, and it is my expectation that you and your child will work on those lessons together. The work I send home will not necessarily be intended to be done by the student alone. Please engage them throughout the week to make sure they are not falling behind in math thinking, reasoning, and/or assignments. Also, check to see that homework is completed each week and in the notebook ready to be brought back to school. Finally, please help your child in preparing for quizzes, tests, and special projects. You know best how to help them in this regard and how best they need to study and prepare.

If you have any questions at all regarding any information contained in this letter or as the year progresses, please feel free to contact me. You can email me at tfenoff@cfl.rr.com or call me at (407) 732-4138. Also, if there is ever a time that you would like to join us for class or sit in for a "refresher," you are more than welcome!

Thank you for the opportunity to teach your child this year!

Sincerely,

Tia Fenoff

MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH TIMELINE

August	Chapter 1	Addition and Subtraction of Whole Numbers
September	Chapter 2	Multiplication and Division of Whole Numbers
	Chapter 3	Addition and Subtraction of Decimals
October	Chapter 4	Multiplication and Division of Decimals
	Chapter 5	Geometry
November	Chapter 6	Number Theory—Developing Fractions
December	Chapter 7	Addition and Subtraction of Fractions
January	Chapter 8	Multiplication and Division of Fractions
	Chapter 9	Equations
February	Chapter 10	Ratio, Proportion, and Percent
	Chapter 11	Using Percent
March	Chapter 12	Integers
	Chapter 13	Perimeter, Area, and Volume
April	Chapter 14	Measurement
	Chapter 15	Sets and Statistics
May	Pre Algebra enrichment	
	End-of-the-year Projects	

Essentially, we will spend approximately 2 to 3 weeks on each chapter. We will have a few extra weeks in our schedule in which I will supplement various pre-algebra activities that correspond to our curriculum at that time.