

In this course, you will learn to use new models and methods to think about and solve problems. You will be developing powerful mathematical tools and learning new ways of thinking about and investigating situations. You will be making connections, discovering relationships, figuring out what strategies can be used to solve problems, and explaining your thinking. Learning math this way has an advantage: as long as you actively participate, make sure everyone in your study team is involved, and ask good questions, you will find yourself understanding mathematics at a deeper level than ever before.

Supplies You Need

- 2-inch binder
- 3 tabbed dividers (Titles: Notes, Review & Preview, Tests/Projects)
- Pencils, sharpener, colored pencils, highlighters, erasers, ruler, protractor
- Graph Paper (3-hole punched)
- Calculator (needs π , square, and square root function, TI-30 is a good choice)
- NewLA planner

How You Are Graded

- Projects - exploration and application of math models and concepts (100pts.)
- Team Tests - tests done with teammates at the end of each chapter (50pts.)
- Individual Tests - individual tests done during the middle of the next chapter (50pts.)
- Checkpoint Quizzes - computation skill quizzes done individually in class (10pts.)
- Presentations/Posters - group work with poster creation and explanation (30pts.)
- Review & Preview - individual homework assignments (3pts.)
- Learning Logs - written summary responses in notes (3pts.)

Learning Resources

- Textbooks will be distributed to students at the beginning of the school year so they have access to learning while at home. Textbooks will also be used in class.
- We will be using Chromebooks and the Internet on a regular basis throughout the year. These resources can be found on the 8th grade website. The most common online resources include Google Docs, CPM eTools, Khan Academy, and Desmos.
- Tutoring and homework help will be available throughout the school year. Students are welcome to visit during Advisory and after school for additional help.

Course Sequence

Chapter 1 - Problem Solving

Checkpoint quiz on operations with fractions and decimals.

Team test on problem solving.

Chapter 2 - Simplifying with Variables

Checkpoint quiz on evaluating expressions and order of operations.

Individual test of material covered in the previous chapter.

Team test on simplifying with variables.

Chapter 3 - Graphs and Equations

Checkpoint quiz on unit rates and proportion.

Individual test of material covered in all previous chapters.

Team test on graphs and equations.

Project #1 due before the end of trimester 1.

Chapter 4 - Multiple Representations

Checkpoint quiz on area and perimeter of circles and composite figures.

Individual test of material covered in all previous chapters.

Team test on multiple representations.

Chapter 5 - Systems of Equations

Checkpoint quiz on solving equations.

Individual test of material covered in all previous chapters.

Team test on systems of equations.

Chapter 6 - Transformations and Similarity

Checkpoint quiz on multiple representations of linear equations.

Individual test of material covered in all previous chapters.

Team test on transformations and similarity.

Project #2 due before the end of trimester 2.

Chapter 7 - Slope and Association

Checkpoint quiz on solving equations with fractions (“Fraction Busters”).

Individual test of material covered in all previous chapters.

Team test on slope and association.

Chapter 8 - Exponents and Functions

Checkpoint quiz on transformations.

Individual test of material covered in all previous chapters.

Team test on exponents and functions.

Chapter 9 - Angles and the Pythagorean Theorem

Checkpoint quiz on scatterplots and associations.

Individual test of material covered in all previous chapters.

Team test on angles and the Pythagorean Theorem.

Project #3 due before the end of trimester 3.

Chapter 10 - Surface Area and Volume

Individual test of material covered in all previous chapters.

Individual test of material covered in chapter 10.

New LA Assessment Policy

Homework: Homework is assigned on most nights and is graded for accuracy and completion.

Extra credit: Students may earn extra credit by doing exceptionally well on projects as determined by the assignment rubric. No extra credit is given on assignments turned in late. Special extra credit assignments are not available. Students will earn their grades based on the

regular course work.

Late Work Policy: Late homework will not be accepted (unless due to an excused absence.) Homework is assigned nightly and is used in class the next day to monitor understanding and prepare for quizzes and exams. Projects will be accepted late, but with a 5% penalty for each day late for up to one week.

Make-up Work: Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Students have one school day for each day absent to turn in all makeup work (unless arrangements are made with the instructor ahead of time).

Participation and Behavior Expectations

1. Respect for Self and Others:

- Respect your and others right to learn
- Come to class prepared with materials and completed homework and/or assignments
- Take responsibility for your own actions
- Be responsible to your group during collaborative work
- Apply the "Thumper Rule": If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all.
- Enter the classroom quietly and in control of your body

2. Engagement in the Community:

- Be an active listener (eyes and ears on the speaker)
- Respond to others ideas and opinions
- 100% Participation 100% of the time
- Be a willing participant in our learning community
- Come to school in uniform and complying to all dress code specifications

3. Passion for Learning

- Give your best effort on all of your work
- Ask questions
- Express your ideas and opinions in a positive way
- Take risks in your learning! (If it feels uncomfortable, you are about to learn something new!)

4. Housekeeping and other procedures

- Students may only use the restroom after the first ten minutes of class except after nutrition or lunch;
- Students should only use the restroom during independent or group work time;
- Students are NOT to use the restroom during direct instruction (unless it is an emergency, in which case, it is the student's responsibility to make sure they receive any information they missed during their time out of class);
- Students MUST sign out using their planner and take the vest when going to the restroom.

No-Tolerance Policy

At New LA, students should learn in a distraction free classroom. The following is a list of items that will not be tolerated on campus or in classrooms:

Toys/Hats: Any toys or hats will be taken and not given back until the end of the school year.

Chewing Gum: If caught chewing gum, you will be given a 5-minute clean-up duty after school. If offense becomes habitual, more serious consequences will occur, such as parent contact or referral to office.

Food: There will be no eating of any kind in the classroom (unless specified by a teacher). If caught eating in the classroom, you will be asked to throw all food present in the trash. If offenses continue, more serious consequences will occur.

Acceptable Use of Technology: Each student must have a completed Internet Safety, Acceptable Use & Chromebook Policy ("Policy") on file. Signatures of parents/guardians indicate an agreement to comply with New Los Angeles Charter School's ("School") standards and to honor the agreement they have signed.

1. Only use a Chromebook when instructed to use it.
2. Know your goal/objective when using the Chromebook.
3. Lower the lid when the teacher/presenter is talking.
4. Only use as instructed.
5. Never leave your device unattended.
6. Take care of your Chromebook:
7. Make sure your hands are clean before using a Chromebook.
8. Always have a clean/clear desktop.
9. Water bottles must stay on the floor.
10. No food or drinks (besides water) allowed in the classroom.
11. Transition responsibly with your Chromebook:
12. ALWAYS carry the Chromebook with TWO hands.
13. When carrying a Chromebook, WALK to and from the cart.
14. Chromebooks must be kept flat on your own desk at all times once taken out.
15. Do not crowd around Chromebook carts – wait for your turn.
16. Plug in your Chromebook when you return it to the cart.

Consequences

- 1st offense: verbal warning
- 2nd offense: in-class time out
- 3rd offense: out of class time out
- 4th offense: office referral