

**Harlem Middle School**  
**Math 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Team 8-1**  
**Mrs. Tanascu and Mrs. Hensley**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course emphasizes the development of skills, techniques, and applications that deal with number relations, exponents, linear equations, graphing, systems of equations, Pythagorean Theorem, transformations on the coordinate plane, volume, and bivariate statistics. The course is aligned with the Illinois Common Core Standards.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** The Illinois Common Core Standards will be utilized

**LEARNING EXPERIENCES**

In this course the students will:

- a. Listen, take notes and actively participate in class discussions
- b. Write explanations for solutions to various problems
- c. Participate actively in small group activities
- d. Design and complete projects

**COURSE MATERIALS:**

Pencils  
Index Cards  
Loose leaf paper  
Graph Paper  
1 1/2" Binder  
4 dry erase markers  
Earbuds/headphones

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

**COURSE FORMAT**

This course is taught in a blended learning format. Students will watch math videos, participate in lectures, discussions, and cooperative groups and complete practice problems and activities. You will be expected to participate in individual and group projects as well.

**COURSE SUCCESS**

In order to be successful in this course, students are expected to:

- contribute daily in the classroom to the learning of math in a positive manner;
- complete all practice for this course
- participate as a group member in all cooperative group settings including projects and class activities
- take notes daily, use your notes to study for assessments
- complete all assignments on time and neatly
- Seek additional help from the teacher when needed

**ATTENDANCE**

Regular and punctual attendance is required, as absences and tardiness have a detrimental effect on student achievement. School policy regarding attendance and tardiness will be enforced.

Exams, tests and quizzes missed because of an excused absence must be made up on the day of your return to school. Practice and projects due on the day of an absence must be handed in the day you return. Practice assigned

on the day of your excused absence is due within two days after your return. If a student misses the class before an exam, test, or quiz, the student will take the assessment with the class.

### **CLASS BEHAVIOR**

The rights of others will be respected at all times. Courtesy should be demonstrated towards both fellow classmates and the teacher. Students are to work only on math assignments while in the classroom. Students found working on another class' assignment will have the item confiscated and a parental conference scheduled. Disruptive or inappropriately attired students will have parents contacted and/or be sent to the main office. School rules as explained in the student handbook apply in this class.

### **GENERAL RULES**

Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be an Active Learner are the core guidelines for classroom behavior. The Harlem Middle School Creed is an integral part of classroom expectations.

### **MAJOR TOPICS TO BE EXPLORED**

**Number Sense:** Students can identify rational and irrational numbers, convert repeating decimals to fractions, and approximate the value of irrational numbers.

**Exponents and Expressions:** Students can simplify exponential expressions with integer bases, write numbers in scientific notation, and perform operations on numbers in scientific notation.

**Equations:** Students can solve multi-step equations with integer, decimal, and fractional coefficients. Students can write and solve equations to model real world situations.

**Functions:** Students can identify and graph linear functions. Students can write linear equations from graphs and tables. Students can interpret the slope and y intercept of a linear function for a given situation.

**Systems of Equations:** Students can solve systems of equations algebraically and graphically. Students can use systems of equations to solve real world problems.

**Transformational Geometry:** Students can perform, describe the effects of, and analyze transformations on the coordinate plane.

**Statistics:** Students can determine the association in scatter plots, write the equations for lines of best fit, and make predictions based on the data.

**Measurement Geometry:** Students can apply volume formulas to real world problems and the Pythagorean Theorem.

**Students who fall behind academically, will be given academic detentions everyday until they have earned a level 2 or better on each standard needed.**

*Additional topics will be covered time permitting*



## **ASSESSMENT**

**This is a standards based course. Student's grades are separated into two overall categories: Standards Achievement and Process Skills.**

Standards Achievement scores are based on each student's demonstrated knowledge on assessments. Each reporting category has a delineated scale indicating the associated skills.

Process Skills are scored on the school process rubric and include all assignment types not listed above.

At Home Practice/Homework: Parents may check the team website nightly for any assignments that might be due. Skyward is updated regularly for student and parent access.

**Please refer to the school handbook regarding the retake policy. Students must retake assessments where they have not earned a level 2 or higher. Students who have not achieved a 2 will be given additional practice and opportunities for instruction that must be completed before the retest.**

## **CONTACTING THE INSTRUCTOR**

Parents with questions are encouraged to call the instructor at 1-815-654-4510. Please leave your name, your child's name, and a daytime number where you can be reached. Parents may email the teacher at [amy.tanascu@harlem122.org](mailto:amy.tanascu@harlem122.org). Students may schedule an appointment to see the teacher for extra help during lunch or to stay after school.

Students should retain the syllabus for the entire school year and refer to them as needed.