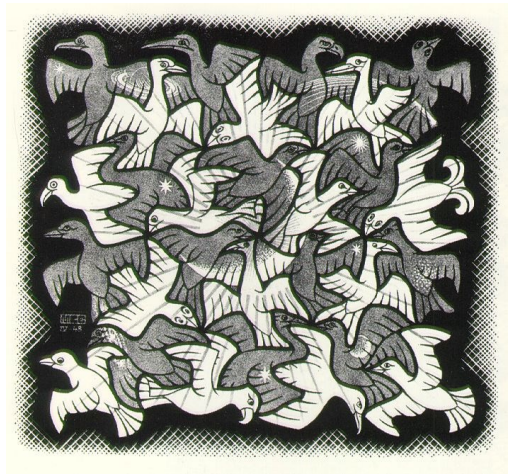


# 8th Grade Pre-Algebra

- Mr. Johnson
- johnsonad@mtnbrook.k12.al.us
- Webpage <http://goo.gl/ONSi5y>



## Survival Tips!

This course is designed to help you improve your confidence in your math skills. We will explore math in ways you've never imagined! The best way to survive 8th grade math is to come to class with a positive attitude and an open mind each day. We will explore the following mathematical concepts: solving equations, Pythagorean Theorem, geometry, graphing linear equations, functions, systems of linear equations, statistics, exponents and scientific notation.

## Meet Mr. Johnson

I am excited to begin another exciting year at Mountain Brook Junior High. I earned my Bachelors of Science in Mathematics and Health from Troy University in 2004. And, in the summer of 2013, I earned my Masters degree in Education Leadership with a concentration in Instructional Technology. In my free time I enjoy playing and coaching soccer, hiking, climbing and most all outdoor activities. I am looking forward to continuing my career in the Mountain Brook system for many years to come and can't wait to get to know all of you. This is YOUR class. I am simply here to guide and prompt you along the way. This class will only be as effective as you make it. I encourage you to actively participate each day in order to make class entertaining each day.

## Reward System

I firmly believe in rewarding hard work, an honest effort and a positive attitude. You will have plenty of opportunities to earn rewards during class. If and when you earn rewards or perform exceptionally well on an assignment, I like to call home and let mom or dad know about your hard work and success.

## Consequences...

Unfortunately, from time to time we all make bad decisions and poor choices. When this occurs, we have to face consequences. I hope this doesn't happen too often. If and when this does occur, my first response is to have a conversation with you one on one about your behavior. The next step is to alert your parents about the choices you made.

If you fail to plan, you plan to fail.

## Textbook: *Big Ideas Math*

You are expected to bring your book each day. You will have an online book for your use at home. There will be times that you are expected to print handouts, graphic organizers and other supplemental materials. Those items will be found in our Moodlerooms page and will be required when you come to class. In addition to bringing your textbook every day, you should also have the following items with you in class at all times:

- **Binder (with plenty of paper)**
- **Workbook**
- **Highlighter**
- **Pens and Pencils**
- **Calculator ( I will not be able to loan you one)**
- **All supplemental materials that you are asked to print**
- **An open mind, strong work ethic, willingness to take chances**
- **A *Positive Attitude!!!***

## When am I Ever Going to Use This?

Math, like all subjects, is very important in the life of a student. Math is a necessary skill to allow you to be successful in your daily life. In this class we aren't just learning math. We are going to learn how to solve problems using math and a systematic mathematical approach. Learning this skill will help you in your day to day life as well as other fields of study. We are going to investigate where math is used in the real world and how it applies to us as citizens.

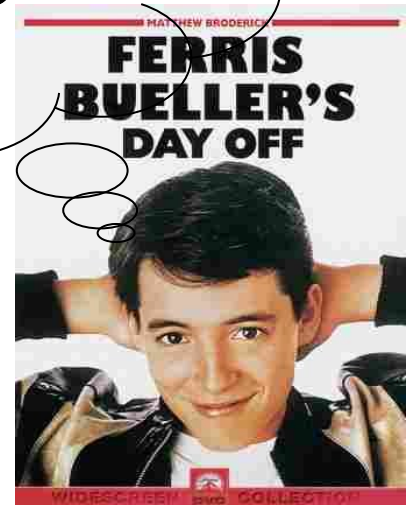


## Making the Grade

Your grades for this class are weighted across three categories (Major, Minor and Practice). Major assignments are 75 % of your grade, Minor assignments will count for 25%. If you check your grade and see "MA," this means I have not received the assignment but you may still submit it. If you see a "0" this means you earned a score of 0 for that particular assignment.

From time to time you will have to miss school. When you do it is **YOUR** responsibility to find out what you missed and arrange with me how you plan to make up all missed assignments. If possible you should make arrangements prior to missing school. You will have three days to meet with me to make a plan on how your missed work will be completed. It is suggested that you find your homework on the Moodlerooms page and complete it before returning to school. If you miss a test, you have to take the make-up test in the make-up room before school. Failure to make-up your test at the scheduled time will result in points off of your grade.

*I can't go to school today...I feel awful!*



### How can I get Extra Help?



Our schedule has a built-in class period called AO. This time is designed for you to get additional support. In order to receive this help, you have to get an AO pass from me before 8 AM Monday, Tuesday and Friday. If you do not get an AO pass, you will not have a reserved seat.

### Note to the Parents

Please communicate with your student about important dates and deadlines. All information that pertains directly to the student will be posted on the Moodlerooms page. There is a link on the webpage for you to fill out a small questionnaire. Please do this soon so that I know you have seen the syllabus. Thanks!

\*A special THANK YOU to the MBCS FOUNDATION for the access to state of the art technology\*  
And to the PTO for the generous funding to kick off the year!

# Expectations!

## *You are expected to...*



- Arrive to class on time
- Come to class fully prepared
- Actively participate in all assignments (in and out of class)
- Remain seated and in place unless given permission to do otherwise
- Be respectful of your teacher, classmates and the learning environment
- Wait for your teacher to dismiss you (the bell does not dismiss you)
- Be an active learner
- Check the MoodleRooms page DAILY
- Have a positive attitude
- Have an open mind



## “Homework”

You can expect to have homework assigned to you nightly. Homework will vary in how it is assigned and what is expected of you in order to receive credit. Please don't stress...you will adapt quickly and become a pro! If the homework assignment is a “traditional” series of problems from the book you will be expected to do ALL of the assigned problems, show ALL work and check ALL answers on the Moodlerooms page. If the homework is a video or any other digital form of content delivery, you are expected to ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE with the material AND take notes as if you are sitting in a traditional classroom setting. If the homework requires you to print supplemental material you are expected to make arrangements to do so. Your active participation in the “homework” is VITAL to your success. For this course, homework is a precursor to what we will learn... not a wrap-up from what was covered. A student who chooses not to do the “homework” will find it very difficult to participate in class. If you have not done your part prior to class, you will be delayed in getting started in the day's activities.

## Missing a homework assignment.

In order to be successful and able to actively participate in class you MUST do your homework as it is assigned. Failure to complete an assignment will earn a grade of ZERO. If you fail to complete an assignment it is your responsibility to let me know. You will fill out a homework slip, have a parent sign the slip AND complete the assignment as it was originally assigned. Following these steps DOES NOT earn you credit. However, it does keep you out of homework room. Should you fail to complete any of these steps, THEN you will be assigned homework room. Should you develop the habit of repeated-

## “Is this gonna be on the Test?”

Math Test Days are on the ODD days of the month. Tests will be announced in advance to allow the student time to prepare. If you miss the day before a test you WILL be expected to take the test with everyone else.

Quizzes/Entry Tickets can be given on any day and are not always announced in advance.

## 1mp0rtant Numb3r5!

*My Moodlerooms log-in and password are:*

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“Annie don't you lose my number!”

Textbook Number	Exam View Number

## Online Expectations.

A large portion of this course will be conducted online. I will be using various forms of digital media to communicate with you, administer lessons, assignments, quizzes, etc. You are expected to have reliable access to a computer and the internet. There are plenty of options available here at school (before, during and after), the public library is available, a friend, a neighbor, etc. Having “computer issues” will not excuse you from a deadline or an assignment. I strongly encourage you to go ahead and have a back-up plan in place should you encounter technical difficulties. From time to time things happen that are simply out of our control. Please understand that I will be reasonable when listening to your situation, but will RARELY extend a deadline or accept a late assignment due to “computer problems.” If you ever run into technical difficulties it is always a good idea for YOU to email me right away (you don't always have to have a computer or internet to do this thanks to Smart Phones). In your email please include your name, your class period and be as descriptive as you can. It never hurts to send a screenshot/picture of the issue you are having.

## Discussion Board Behavior

You will be asked to participate in discussion questions in Moodlerooms. Although this is not an English class, you are still expected to use proper grammar, punctuation and respectful language. I will not tolerate attacking, teasing or rude behavior in general. You are expected to treat your classmates with respect even if you are in a virtual learning environment. You are allowed to take an opposing view or have an opposite opinion as someone else, I just ask that you be respectful in doing so.