Welcome to Eighth Grade MATHEMATICS! Mrs. Katze 2009-2010

Welcome! I look forward to a terrific year with you. Please take the time to carefully read through the information, requirements and policies below, as understanding them will insure that you get off to a good start.

I. **Course Outcomes**: Students will learn to use mathematics effectively through various problem-solving experiences. These will include: use of higher order thinking skills, a wide variety of problem types including open-ended problems, and pair and grouping strategies. Students will read, write and discuss mathematics while using scientific and graphing calculators as tools.

II. Classroom Guidelines:

- Show respect to **EVERYONE** and for everything in the classroom.
- Be prepared for class when the bell rings: be in your seat, working on the warm-up and have all required materials available.
- No chewing gum, eating, or drinking, unless given permission.
- Class is dismissed by the teacher <u>not</u> by the bell.

III. Grading Policy:

You will be graded using the following percentages	:
Tests	60%
Quizzes / Classwork	25%
Homework	15%

Please note that this is NOT a point out of total points system. More detailed information will come home with first marking period progress reports. I enourage all students and families to check eschool regularly to monitor assignments and grades.

Extra credit is occasionally offered to the entire class, but is not given in individual cases where a student's grade is low due to lack of completed regularly-assigned work.

IV. Required Supplies:

You are required to bring a 3-ring notebook, lined notebook paper, **pencils**, eraser, pen, calculator, agenda, and **covered** textbook to class each day. Failure to do so may affect your grade. In your notebook, papers should be kept in *date* order.

V. Homework:

Homework (5 points per nightly assignment, unless otherwise noted) will be assigned every night and checked for completeness every day. In order to receive full credit for homework, all work must be shown neatly on your paper and every problem must be sincerely attempted! Graph paper must be used for graphing problems or at least one homework point will be lost. Occasionally, homework will be collected and graded for accuracy. No late homework will be accepted, except in the case of absence. I am always available during homeroom for extra homework help.

VI. Assessments:

- Quizzes will be given periodically throughout a chapter. These will be both announced and unannounced.
- Tests will be given at the end of each chapter. These will be announced approximately one week ahead of time. If a test or quiz is missed due to absence, you may make it up by arranging a date and time to do so with Mrs. Katze.
- Projects may be assigned throughout the year and will count as quiz or test grades. Projects must be turned in on or before the due date.

VII. Absences:

- If you miss class you are still responsible for all work and assignments the class completed in your absence. Make up work will be provided for you in the appropriate folder on the side counter. It is *your responsibility* to pick it up and ask me any questions you may have.
- In the case of planned absences (educational trips, field trips, sports games, etc.), you must pick up the work you will be missing prior to your absence. Work will be due the day you return to school.

If you do not understand something, seek extra help immediately! Do not wait until the day before a quiz or test to come for help; if you let me know you need help I will be **happy** to meet with you at an agreed-upon time.

VIII. Parent Communication:

I am available via phone and email. The school's phone number is 244-4021 (x2315) and my email address is <u>PaulaAnn.Katze@dallastown.net</u>. Parents, I very much welcome your involvement and interest! Thank you for your assistance and support.

"Go down deep enough into anything and you will find *mathematics*." ~Dean Schlicter