**ST. JOHNS MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Math Matters**

**Teacher:** Mrs. Ashley Walker  **E-mail:** walkera@sjredwings.org **Website:**<http://sjmswalker.weebly.com>

**Telephone:** 227-4379  **Conference:**  4th Hour (10:38-11:28)

**Course Description:**

Math Matters is an intervention program designed to support the learning needs of students who have demonstrated difficulty meeting the state’s standards in mathematics. Curriculum will be designed to support previous math standards. Math Matters provides explicit, systematic instruction to remedy gaps in prerequisite (lower grade level) learning. Students enrolled in Math Matters have been identified as those needing the ***most general education math support in the school***. Space is limited. Students are placed using data, not request. Parents are notified of placement changes via letter by postal mail or e-mail.

***THIS COURSE IS NOT A HOMEWORK COMPLETION OR TUTORING COURSE DIRECTLY TIED TO THE CORE MATH CLASS.*** The courses are graded separately on separate criteria. In time, the skills mastered in Math Matters will support skill application, achievement, and confidence in the core math courses. Math Matters is not “homework club.” Math homework should be done at home. Students are encouraged to attend [Math Lab](http://www.sjredwings.org/downloads/_acct_/00/00/08/20/2014_03_19_extended_day_20140325_155939_3.pdf) for additional support on current content. See “Additional Course Resources” below.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Learn and demonstrate mastery of the [Michigan Mathematics Standards](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/K-12_MI_Math_Standards_REV_470033_7_550413_7.pdf) for previous grade levels.
2. Identify and provide explicit, systematic instruction to remedy gaps in prerequisite (lower grade level) learning.
3. Increase student achievement on grade level by filling underlying gaps in skills.
4. Improve conceptual understanding of everyday mathematics by focusing on critical thinking, problem-solving, rational numbers, fact fluency, and application.

**Additional Course Resources:**

1. Google classroom:<https://classroom.google.com/>
2. Online Textbook: [goo.gl/b9lzrH](https://bim.easyaccessmaterials.com/index.php?location_user=cc2)
3. Khan Academy:<http://www.khanacademy.org/login>
4. Sumdog:<http://www.sumdog.com>
5. LearnZillion: <https://learnzillion.com>
6. After-School Help: SJMS math teachers offer Math Lab every Monday and Wednesday from 2:50 pm-3:30 pm in the Information Center classroom. This after-school time can be used to get extra help, make up work due to an absence, etc. In addition to Math Lab, Extended Day is available for all subjects Monday through Thursday before school from 7:15 am-7:40 am and after school from 2:50 pm-3:30 pm.

**Grading:**

Students are graded based on effort, academic output, and progress toward goals, **NOT GRADE LEVEL PROFICIENCY LIKE IN THEIR CORE MATH COURSES**. A copy of the grading calendar is attached to this syllabus. Students may earn up to 10 points per day based on:

1. Problem solving
2. Personal management
3. Organization
4. Teamwork
5. Negotiation Skills

*(Reference: Skills 4-8 of the* [*Michigan Career and Employability Skills Standards*](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/career%26employ_standards_12_01_13760_7.pdf)*)*

**Behavioral Expectations:**

This class follows the behavioral expectations laid out in the SJMS Student/Parent Handbook. It is expected that students will:

1. Take responsibility (for attendance, promptness, materials, their learning, and their effort). Students are expected to bring a pencil, student planner, and all current core math supplies including completed homework and study guides.
2. Ensure safety.
3. Act with kindness.
4. Model positive behavior (which includes exhibiting self-control and a positive attitude).

**Success (Exit) Criteria from Math Matters:**

Placement in Math Matters is for one trimester, with very few exceptions. Placements are made using all existing education data regarding mathematics, including:

1. Normed data regarding progress toward goals in Math Matters.
2. EasyCBM Benchmark Assessments (Fall, Winter, Spring).
3. Interim Assessments administered to all students in your child’s grade level.
4. Course quizzes, tests, and finals administered in core math courses.
5. Achievement scores from the most recent administration of state assessments (M-STEP).
6. Teacher, administrator, and counselor input and recommendation.

**Helpful Math Success Hints:**

1. Do your math homework, and turn it in on time.
2. Ask for math help whenever you need it.
3. Take time to do test corrections and attempt to learn from your mistakes.
4. Practice and study for math tests and quizzes by working through problems similar to those you have done in class.
5. Go to Math Lab.

Please sign on the lines below and return **this portion only** to Mrs. Walker by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (date).

We have received, read, and understand the Math Matters Syllabus and attached grading sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature Date

Math Matters Grades for Month: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Pts. | Grade | Criteria |  |  | NOTES: |
| 10 | A | * I wrote daily work, homework, and upcoming assessments in my student planner for my core math class.
* I helped create a positive learning environment.
* I encouraged other to demonstrate maturity.
* I used success strategies I already learned in Math Matters.
* I never left on a pass.
* PLUS all criteria of a B.
 |  | Week #1Date: | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI |  |
| 9 | A- |  | Week #2Date: | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI |  |
| 8.5 | B | * I respected others and our class environment.
* I obeyed rules and instructions.
* I worked the entire class, using time wisely.
* I came prepared and put forth my best effort.
 |  | Week #3Date: | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI |  |
| 8 | B- |  |
| 7.5 | C | * I demonstrated all indicators of a B but…
* I needed prompting or I was inconsistent.
 |  | Week #4Date: | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI |  |
| 7 | C- |  |
| 6.5 | D | * I needed much redirection.
* I distracted others.
 |  | Week #5Date: | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI |  |
| 6 | D- |  |
| 5.5 | F | * Even with prompting, I was not able to demonstrate success strategies.
 |  |

**Goals of Math Matters**

(from the MICHIGAN CAREER AND EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS STANDARDS at [*http://michigan.gov/documents/Career&Employ\_Standards\_12\_01\_13760\_7.pdf*](http://michigan.gov/documents/Career%26Employ_Standards_12_01_13760_7.pdf) )

**PROBLEM SOLVING**

**4.** All students will make decisions and solve problems by

* specifying goals,
* identifying resources and constraints,
* generating alternatives,
* considering impacts,
* choosing appropriate alternatives,
* implementing plans of action,and
* evaluating results.

**PERSONAL MANAGEMENT**

**5.** All students will display personal qualities such as

* responsibility,
* self-management,
* self-confidence,
* ethical behavior, and
* respect for self and others.

**ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS**

**6.** All students will

* identify,
* organize,
* plan, and
* allocate resources (such as time, ~~money~~, material, and human resources) efficiently and effectively.

**TEAMWORK**

**7.** All students will

* work cooperatively with people of diverse backgrounds and abilities,
* identify with the group’s goals and values,
* learn to exercise leadership,
* teach others new skills,
* ~~serve clients or customers~~, and
* will contribute to a group process with ideas, suggestions, and efforts.

**NEGOTIATION SKILLS**

**8.** All students will communicate ideas to

* support a position and
* negotiate to resolve divergent interests.