Mr. Ferguson’s 7th grade Math 2013-2014

The Class:

The curriculum for this class is based on the 7th grade Common Core State Standards (CCSS). These standards are new and are designed to be rigorous and increase student achievement throughout the country. This is the first year that PUSD will be fully implementing CCSS and it will be a transition for students, parents and teachers alike. If you have any questions about CCSS please contact me.

Also, PUSD is making a major initiative this year to implement what is called “cooperative learning.” This does mean that students will be seated in groups and will be doing many activities in which they participate in group or partner activities. It does not mean that students will do group work or that they will be graded based on the performance of their groups. Please feel free to contact me for questions on this.

The Text:

We will (eventually) be adopting a textbook from Glencoe Math. This adoption should hopefully take place in September, at which point your student will receive the actual text as well as online access to materials. In the meantime, we are “piloting” the book and your student will receive a copy of it chapter by chapter.

My extreme gratitude goes out to all of the people involved in the fundraising for this adoption of new materials. Please be aware that this purchase is not being funded by the state or the district, but rather by fundraising, primarily the “FORE education” committee. If you would like more details on this fundraising visit the PUSD main website.

Grading Policy:

60% Tests, quizzes and other formal assessments

20% Accuracy of work (this may be homework or classwork)

20% Completion of work

Tests:

For each chapter there are three sections to the test:

**Vocab**- The vocab words are listed at the beginning of each chapter so students can know what to study. This section of the test may not be reattempted.

**Extended Response-** This is an in depth detailed question that requires explanations. It will typically be assigned as homework the night of the test and is due the next day. It may not be reattempted or turned in late (except for absences).

**Chapter test-** This is your “typical” test and involves multiple choice or short answer questions. Because the curriculum is based on CCSS, a large portion of the test is based on real-life situations and “word problems.” If a student is not pleased with their grade on this section of the test they may reattempt it (before or after school) IF they have completed all homework for the unit. They may complete this homework after the test if they wish to reattempt the test, but it will not count for accuracy (see below)

Quizzes:

Quizzes are basically short tests that cover a small section of curriculum.

Quarterly Tests:

Each quarter students will take a quarterly final that covers all material covered during that quarter. At the end of the year they will take a final exam that covers all material for the whole year. These quarterly assessments DO count towards a students’ grade.

Completion of work:

There will be homework on a nightly basis, and it is posted on my website. The majority of the assignments will be from the adopted textbook, but there will also be supplemental worksheets. All homework requires clear work for all questions. If there is no work to accompany the answers it will not be accepted. If an assignment is completed on time it will be stamped “CGF Completed HW” and will receive 100% credit, regardless of how many questions are correct. If an assignment is mostly complete they will receive 50% completion credit. Any assignment less that ¾ complete will not receive completion credit. If an assignment is late due to absence it is the student’s responsibility to complete it, and have Mr. Ferguson stamp it for completion credit prior to turning it in to the late basket. Late work does not receive completion credit.

Accuracy of work:

Most assignments will also be graded for accuracy. Students may redo any assignment and turn them in for full accuracy credit at any time before the chapter test. If an assignment is late, it will still receive full accuracy credit if it is turned in.

Extra Credit:

I occasionally will provide extra credit questions or worksheets. These will count as bonus points in the accuracy of work section. Please do not ask for additional extra credit.

Contact Mr. Ferguson:

Email: Chris.Ferguson@prescottschools.com

There is also a contact page on my website.

Text me @ 928-925-1813. This is the best way to get help on HW if you are stuck.

Please be sure to include your name in the text so I know who I am talking to. I will not answer phone calls, but if you have a major concern you may leave a message and I will get back to you.

*Please sign the 3x5 card your student was given so I know you have read and understand the policies for my class.*

Thank you and I look forward to a great year,

Chris Ferguson