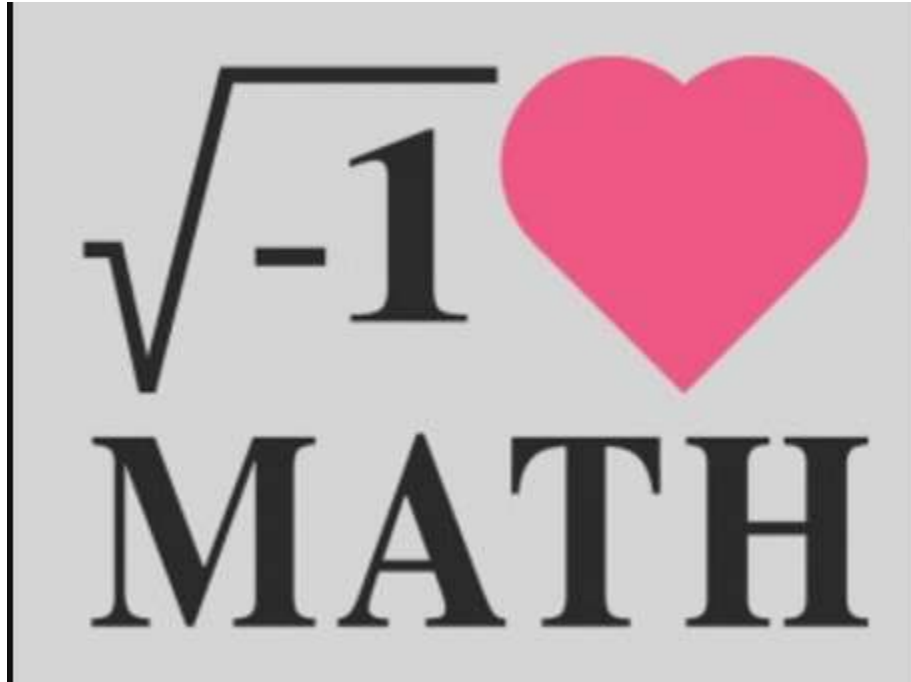


# Welcome to Miss Dyksterhouse's Classroom



## Algebra

Team 81

### Parent/Student Packet

This packet of information covers some of our classroom procedures and subject matter. Please take a few minutes to read it. It will be quite informative and negate much of the confusion that can accompany the start of a new school year.

# Parent Classroom Information

## Supplies

We will be diving into the curriculum right away, so it is important to be prepared. Here is a list of suggested supplies that will be very beneficial to have in class:

- ❖ Pencils (cap erasers)
- ❖ 1-subject spiral notebooks (Math Journal- NEED by 8/27) or one large multi subject notebook
- ❖ Highlighters (4 colors if possible)
- ❖ Glue Sticks (we will go through several this year)- donations are welcomed and appreciated!
- ❖ 3-ring binder or folder (paper folder is fine for assessments and homework assignments)
- ❖ Scientific Calculator (if students want their own)

***\*\*Classroom Donations are always appreciated. We are always in need of: soft Kleenex (kids really appreciate this), dry erase markers, glue sticks, hand sanitizer and Clorox Wipes. The MOST NEEDED items are Kleenex, hand sanitizer and Clorox Wipes, used to combat cold/flu season!***

## Student Planners

Students will be responsible for a daily planner to record homework, upcoming assessments and important dates and activities. Parents are asked to monitor planners and Infinite Campus regularly.

## Homework Policy

In order to develop good learning habits, your child must set aside a time each evening to work on homework/study. The homework given in my class will be intentional and a direct reflection of what was taught in the classroom. If homework is late, the student's grade will drop 50% each day it is late.

## Assessment/Project Policy

Assessments and projects will make up **80%** of the students grade. For this reason, please make sure your child is keeping up with assignments and spending the appropriate amount of time studying.

## Formative Assessments

After the completion of each topic, the students will be given a "Homework Check Quiz." These mini assessments are designed to help your child identify their level of understanding on the material being taught. If a student earns below an 80%, they need to identify their misconceptions and get help. As a parent, you can use these Homework Quizzes as a tool to monitor your child's progress in the class.

## **Tutoring**

If your child is struggling in this course at any time, please have them contact me immediately to get help. I have tutoring time available directly before school. Please schedule at least one day in advance so I can ensure I am in my classroom. My website also has a page designated to resources and tutorials broken down by topic. Most importantly, *please encourage your child to get help **before** the day of an assessment since I cannot assure their questions will be answered if they wait until the morning of an assessment.*

## **Website**

In order to regularly update you on what is happening in class, a classroom website has been developed. This is a tool that can be used to see the student's assignments, classroom topics, important dates, resource links, and other important information. The web address is [www.gpsdyksterhouse.weebly.com](http://www.gpsdyksterhouse.weebly.com) We also have a Team 81 website. The web address is <http://gmsteam81.weebly.com/>. Please check them out!

## **Infinite Campus**

Please check Infinite Campus often (weekly/daily) to review your child's progress in the class as well as classroom announcements such as tests, quizzes, due dates, etc... You will also be able to view any assignments that are missing, grades from completed assignments, and test grades. I will try to post any documents that are given out in class, on the website, so they are easily accessible.

## **Contact Information**

At anytime if you have questions about your student's progress feel free to contact me by email or phone. I will try to get back to you within a 24 hour period. My preferred and quickest method of contact is email.

- ❖ Email: [kdyksterhouse@gpsbulldogs.org](mailto:kdyksterhouse@gpsbulldogs.org)
- ❖ Phone: (616) 254-6481

# **Student Classroom Information**

## **Classroom Expectations**

Each day after the bell rings there are certain expectations that are required of you in order for you and your peers to receive the best education possible. You should be aware of these expectations and follow them. The purpose of these expectations is to create a positive learning environment.

- You are responsible to be an active participant in your own learning. It is expected that you advocate for yourself by getting help when needed.
- When the bell rings you need to be in your seat, quietly working on bell work, and ready to learn.

- The rules and procedures established together in class need to be followed immediately after entering the classroom, even if the bell hasn't rung.
- Use the restroom before class. Do not ask me to use the bathroom the first ten minutes, the last ten minutes or during direct instruction. Students will be given **3 restroom passes** to use **each trimester** in order to maximize learning time. If you have a medical condition, please notify me so other arrangements can be made.
- Adhere to all the rules of the student handbook.
- Inappropriate use of a personal electronic device is not acceptable in the classroom. If a student is choosing to operate their personal device for any reason other than educational purposes, it will be immediately taken away and given to the office for parental pick-up.
- Tardies: A student is tardy if they are not in the classroom when the bell rings. They should then go directly to their seat. Excessive tardies will be handled with a guardian and administrative involvement.

If all of these expectations are followed, this will allow us to have a great learning environment and have fun.

## **Mathematics Grading System**

Your grade will be based on the following areas:

- Assignments/Homework (10%): Assignments will be given to increase a student's understanding of a topic. If an assignment is not completed in class, it will be due the next day.
- Formative Assessments (10%): Formative Assessments include homework checks and any quiz that is used to see if the students have understood the current concept.
- Quizzes (30%): Frequent quizzes will be given in order to evaluate the student's comprehension of topics learned in class. Since quizzes will be given frequently, it will only cover a few concepts. Studying for each quiz (including completing homework) is extremely important for student success.
- Tests (50%): A test will be given to check a student's comprehension of a unit. Studying for each assessment (including completing and reviewing the test reviews) is extremely important for student success.
- Projects (%): There are two types of projects that may be given in the class, evaluative and formative. An evaluative project is used as a form of assessment to evaluate what a student has learned over a chapter or section of material. A formative project is used to help supplement what they are learning in class. Both types of projects are used to apply the mathematical content introduced in class to complete a real-world problem. The type of project given in class will determine which category it will be placed.

***Please frequently check Infinite Campus and the website for notification of upcoming tests, quizzes and due dates!***

### **Grading Scale (%)**

100-94 A	86-83 B	76-73 C	66-63 D
93-90 A-	82-80 B-	72-70 C-	62-60 D-
89-87 B+	79-77 C+	69-67 D+	<b>less than 60% is failing</b>
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# Homework Expectations

Student's homework will be collected on a daily basis. Each assignment will be worth 4 points towards the student's **homework/assignment grade**. A student will either receive a 4 for total completion of their homework, a 2 for at least half completion of their homework, or no points for less than half completion. Other than this, there are no other partial points awarded for homework. The following criteria must be met in order to receive all 4 homework points:

- ☆ Every problem on the assigned homework **must be completed**.
  - Complete can mean any one of the following:
    - If the student understands how to do the assigned problem, complete it, show all work and circle the answer.
    - If the student feels somewhat confident in knowing how to solve a problem, try it, show all work, circle the answer and put a question mark in the margin by the number.
    - If the student has no idea how to do the problem, first copy the problem word for word and any of the instructions that go with it. Next, the student needs to attempt as much of the problem as possible and write a **specific question** the student has on that problem. The purpose is to see where the student is stuck.
      - An example of a good question is, "I understand how to collect the like terms, but am stuck on how to solve for x."
      - An example of an inappropriate question is, "I don't get any of it." Finally, circle the entire problem and write a question mark in the margin. The student needs to make sure to ask to see this problem demonstrated in class the next day or stay after school for tutoring help.
- ☆ Show work on the problem.
  - If there is more than one step to a problem, show the work involved by writing it out neatly and in an organized manner. This means even work that you do in your head. In other words, if the problem requires more than multiplying 2 numbers together show/explain how you got from point A to Z.
- ☆ Correct your work
  - The answers to the homework are available online through the online book or via classroom website. The students are expected to come to class with their homework checked and corrections made on the problems they got incorrect.

# About Miss Dyksterhouse

Hello, my name is Kristen Dyksterhouse and I am so excited to begin my 7th year teaching secondary math! I grew up in Byron Center, MI and attended Grand Valley State University. I graduated with a mathematics major and English minor back in 2012, certifying me in both secondary (6th-12th) English and math. After I completed my undergraduate degree I moved to SW Michigan and taught secondary mathematics (2 years of high school and 3 years of 8<sup>th</sup> grade) for 5 years at Berrien Springs Public Schools, a globally diverse school district located in Southwest Michigan that represents over 44 different countries. During this time frame I completed my master's degree at Michigan State University in Educational Technology, certifying me in 6th-12<sup>th</sup> grade technology instruction; but, more importantly, I credit this program with revamping my thinking, learning, and teaching. While I thoroughly enjoyed my time in SW MI, my desire was to be back home in West Michigan near family and friends. In 2017 I had the pleasure of joining the Grandville Middle School staff. Since I have been at the middle school, I have greatly enjoyed working with the staff, students, parents, and community members. I am looking forward to another great year!

My style of teaching is very hands-on and inquiry based. I believe that students learn best when they can take ownership of what they are learning. My job as a classroom educator is to facilitate the learning for the students. This is done by giving a group of students a task to explore, providing them with any tools they need, and monitoring a student lead conversation about what they discovered. At the end of this process the students should have a deeper, more conceptual understanding of what is being taught. Along with this I also try to incorporate real-world examples though the use of technology and real-world tasks.

I am very excited to have the opportunity to build relationships with you and your student throughout the next school year. My number one goal at Grandville Middle School is to provide a very positive learning experience for your student. If at any time you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at [kdyksterhouse@gpsbulldogs.org](mailto:kdyksterhouse@gpsbulldogs.org) or call me at (616) 254-6481.