



Welcome Algebra Students and Parents!

I am delighted to be teaching Algebra to your child this year and I have many exciting activities planned for the students. Christ the King School follows the Diocesan Curriculum Guide in order to meet the objectives for the year. I plan to use our textbooks, workbooks, manipulatives, Accelerated Math program, and problem-solving activities, to supplement my direct teaching. Below, I have highlighted some areas that you may have questions or concerns about.

CURRICULUM

In Algebra I, students will improve their knowledge of operations with real numbers, solving and applying equations, inequalities, absolute values, factoring polynomials, rational expressions, linear equations, radicals, quadratic equations and problem-solving. This curriculum is an introduction to higher-level mathematics and it is used to best prepare students for advanced math classes as freshmen in high school.

PRINGLES

As part of the students' homework, they will have a Pringle math sheet (yes, just like the potato chips!) available to them on the first day of the week. This sheet will promote higher level thinking skills in mathematics and the students may use calculators and work in groups with other students, parents or friends. Pringle is due every Friday (or the next school day) and the students are graded with a 5-point rubric (see attachment). I encourage all parents to ask their child about the Pringle sheet and to help them budget their time so they won't be overwhelmed on Thursday night.

ACCELERATED MATH PROGRAM

Accelerated Math (AM) is an individualized mathematics program that is managed with computer software. Students will practice concepts we cover in class and then take a test when they are ready. When the student passes the test, review problems will be presented on Practice sheets periodically throughout the year. This program is a comprehensive, self-paced supplement to teacher instruction. Students will be asked to set personal goals and will be recognized for their accomplishments.

(Over)

GRADING

Homework Policy - Math homework will be assigned every night except Friday to reinforce the skills taught in class. Students are expected to try to do every homework assignment and show all work. At the beginning of each 9 weeks, every student will have a homework grade of 100. It will remain at 100 as long as the student shows reasonable attempts at the work. If minimal effort has been made, five points will be taken from the homework grade. This is a cumulative process for the entire 9 weeks. For example, if a student does not do homework 3 days in a row (rare!) then their homework grade will be an 85.

If a student shows reasonable attempts at homework but needs additional assistance, he/she may make an appointment to see me during recess for extra help. **I do not offer extra credit in Algebra I.**

Weighted Grades – Nine week grades are weighted as follows:

Classwork – 10%

Homework – 20%

Projects (includes Pringles) – 20%

AM Tests – 35%

AM Reviews – 15%

CALCULATORS

In Algebra, the **TI-84+ graphing calculators** are used in the classroom. Students are expected to know how to use the calculator and to know the various functions for the keys. They are encouraged to use them, when necessary, on homework so that they can work independently and concentrate on the application of a skill they learned in class. Students are sometimes permitted to use calculators on tests and quizzes and will also be assessed on a regular basis to assure mastery of mathematical facts.

I'm looking forward to an exciting and productive year with your child. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. You can reach me by phone at 292-9465 ext. 354 or by e-mail at tracey.williamson@ctk.org.