



Math 456: Geometry

Grades 10-12

Ms. Dao

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2012-2013

Classroom Structures and Procedures

"A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new."- Albert Einstein

*Part of learning and exploring the mathematics requires us to make mistakes in order to discover new ideas.
In this classroom, we will make and encounter mistakes, but we will persevere together in resolving them.*

Welcome to our Geometry class! We have a very exciting year ahead and it is my hope that we will be able to explore some interesting mathematics and have productive discussions daily. In order to achieve this, here are the following expectations for our class:

Class Expectations: What do we do in class?

- **Be Respectful:** Our classroom environment is an inclusive community, meaning that it is a safe-zone for all students. I expect everyone to treat one another with respect. Treating others with respect means having a courteous attitude, being a team player, raising your hand, waiting to be called on when sharing ideas or asking questions, and listening attentively when someone else is talking. We will be supportive of one another even when one of us makes a mistake writing on the board or explaining by carefully listening or nicely saying the correct way to solve a problem.
- **Be Prompt:** When the bell rings, everyone will be in their seats working on the warm-up problem with group members. Starting class by holding mathematical discussions in your groups on the warm-up problem will allow us to progress throughout the lesson for the day, and review important mathematical content from previous classes that will help you prepare for the assignments.
- **Be Prepared:** Arrive to class on time with your math journal, folder, finished homework assignment, math textbook, and a pencil or pen.
- **Communicate!:** Strong communication serves as an important foundation in any field. As a student, I expect you to communicate with me about any concerns, questions, or interests you may have whether it is the math content, the overall structure of the class, or any other concerns. Please keep in mind that there are appropriate times to communicate and to ask certain questions.
 - **“In-class questions”** are questions that you are *highly recommended to ask during* and throughout class and are based on the *mathematical content* or *directions* that will promote your learning and the learning of your peers.
 - **“Outside of class questions”** are questions that are concerning classroom logistics such as

making up for a missed assignment due to an absence or having questions about homework that should be asked before or after class, before or after school, or during lunch.

- **Participate!:** Actively participating in the classroom means that you are on task at ALL times, and contributing to group discussions as well as class discussions with mathematical content. Contributing to the class discussion include:
 - ASK mathematical questions that will help you and your peers
 - SHOW your work or reasoning on the chalkboard
 - RAISE your hand to explain ideas
 - BE READY you and all of your group members must be ready to answer

Daily Class Procedures: What does our class look like?

- **1. Warm-up:** Everyday at the beginning of class we will have a brain teaser or some warmup problems on the board. You will be awarded 5 points for participation each day for being on task right when you enter the classroom. Being on task means you will discuss with your group members about the warm-up and come up with a solution.
- **2. Homework Questions:** We will use time after discussing the warm-up problem to answer any homework questions. Up to three homework problems can be written on the board at the beginning of class.
- **3. Group Activity:** Warm-up activities will help us lead into the group activity or assignment for the day. You will have the opportunity to work with 2-3 teammates in your group and you are all responsible for helping one another making sure each member will be able to answer questions in our class discussion.
- **4. Class Discussion:** We will use the remaining time in class to discuss about the activity that you worked on in your groups about the main ideas. You can raise your hand to share your ideas or show your work on the board. The main ideas will be useful for the homework assignment.

Make-up Work:

- If you are absent from class, we have a missing work folder organizer by the door that contains any previous worksheets or assignments. They will be organized by date, so the newest material will be on the top. Please take time at the beginning or end of class to pick up the old material and discuss with me before or after class about the assignment so that you can make it up.

Positive Reinforcements:

- I will award and record points in my grade book based on classroom participation and group work.
- Everyone who follows the classroom expectations and procedures on a daily basis will have the opportunity at the end of the quarter to:
 - Turn in one late or missing homework assignment for *full credit* if completed.
 - If you have no late homework assignments, then the lowest assignment score you receive will be replaced by a score of 100%.
 - Your lowest exam score will be waived.

Possible Consequences

- If for some reason you do not abide the classroom expectations and procedures the following may occur:
 - A scheduled individual meeting with the teacher to discuss about misbehavior and how we can work to resolve some misconceptions.

- If the misbehavior continues, your guardians will be contacted and the three of us will hold a scheduled meeting.

Contacting Me:

- You are always welcome to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns about this class or about anything discussed during class. I am available after school most days or before school. However to be certain, please make an arrangement with me beforehand or let me know in advance in case I may not be present that day. You can e-mail me at jennifer.dao@district.org, or call at 815-505-6628.
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I _____ understand our classroom expectations and procedures and am willing to take a part in making Geometry run smoothly for me and my classmates.

***If you have any questions and are not sure about something from this sheet, please do not sign it yet! Let me know and we can sort out your questions. Please return this signed sheet or contact my by Aug 30th

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Reflection:

One expectation I chose to include that I find extremely important is *communication*. In order to learn and to gain from any class or situation, communication is key. Communicating to my students that they can and should talk to me whenever they have concerns or questions opens room for important dialogue so that I can best help my students. The way *I will teach and model* this expectation for my students is through discursive moves and constantly reminding students that they need to communicate with me at all times. In my classroom, I will have a large poster that showcases the classroom expectations and highlights communication so that students can easily refer to it. Moreover, I will prompt communication from my students through informal assessment strategies that involve multiple representations, by verbally asking students to raise their hand if they understand the particular concept, and asking students to write down one question they have about the math they learned at the end of the class as an exit ticket. I will also model this expectation through requiring students write a reflection in their journal entries at the end of each week about their thoughts on their progress and what things they can do to improve.

The easy aspect of this assignment was selecting the most important expectations that I envision for my classroom. The expectations I chose model the similar setup of other math classes I have observed in the past and also carry into classrooms of other subject areas. I think the most challenging part of this assignment was coming up with reasonable deductions for make-up work and possible consequences. Part of this challenge was because I never really remember being penalized for work in high school because I was that student that always turned in my work on time and never missed a day of class, so I am not very familiar about the exact procedures of how teachers and students go about late work or unexcused absences. I wanted to be fair as possible, and I did not want the consequences to hinder the motivation of students who happen to turn in late work or have an unexcused absence. As a result, I really like the positive reinforcement category because it made me think about if students follow the class expectations and may have a missing assignment or low score, they will be given the opportunity to make up that assignment because they earned it by following the class rules.