



# 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math

Welcome to 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math at DeWitt Junior High School! This class is designed to strengthen each student's math background enough to prepare them to take 8<sup>th</sup> Grade math next year. The content of this course will hit on a variety of mathematical concepts. A few large areas of focus will be the concepts of...

- Integers
- Solving Equations
- Similar Figures
- 2D & 3D Geometry

## **A Little Bit About the Teacher**

My name is Courtney Thelen I have a bachelor's degree in secondary mathematics education from Western Michigan University and a master's degree in curriculum and teaching from Michigan State University. This will be my 17<sup>th</sup> year of teaching. I am looking forward to working with you to help your child have a successful mathematics experience this year.

## **Class Website -**

I also have a website where you can find information about our class and some online resources to help your child be successful this year. The website is <http://www.mrsthelen.weebly.com>.

Some of the information you will be able to find on this website are...

- Our current unit of study
- Learning targets for the current unit of study
- Table of Contents – A list of assignments for the current unit of study.
- Answer key to any test review sheets (to help students study and prepare for tests)
- Online tutorials for many of the skills learned each unit
- And more...

## **Classroom Expectations - "ROAR"**

### *Respect Others*

- Use classroom appropriate language and volume.
- Treat others as you would want to be treated.

### *Own It*

- Clean up after yourself.
- Value the desks, textbooks, calculators, and other community property.

### *Act Responsibly*

- Be on task.
- Use class time wisely.
- Complete homework assignments on time.

### *Reach for Excellence*

- Ask questions.
- Help others.

## Classwork/Graded Assignments

Student work will be assessed in a variety of ways. Below is a breakdown of the main categories...

- Table of Contents – The students will be keeping track of activities and assignments using a “Table of Contents” for each unit. Each time that the students complete an activity, they will receive a stamp on their “Table of Contents”. (Note: A stamp does not necessarily mean that the student did every problem correct, only that they made an honest attempt at the assignment.) The “Table of Contents” is due on the day of each unit test. Students will receive one point for each stamp on their “Table of Contents”.
- Homework Quizzes – Homework quizzes are given between 1 and 3 times a week. They are worth five points and consist of two to three problems. These are graded for accuracy.
- Warm-Ups – Most class period start with a warm-up problem for the day. Students complete these problems on their “Warm-Up Sheet”. This sheet has space for 6 warm-ups. After six warm-ups have been completed, these are collected. Students receive 1 point for each completed warm-up problem (6 points for one sheet).
- Large Quizzes/Tests/Projects – A large test will be given at the end of each unit and sometimes a large quiz is given midway through a unit as well. Most units also include at least one project.

## Grading

The students’ grades will be calculated using the following weighting system...

10% - Warm-Ups/ Table of Contents (Any grades based solely on completion.)

30% - HW Quizzes/ Projects (Grades based on accuracy & understanding.)

60% - Tests, Large Quizzes

## Grading Scale

A	93- 100%	B-	80-82%	D+	67-69%
A-	90 - 92%	C+	77-79%	D	63-66%
B+	87- 89%	C	73-76%	D-	60-62%
B	83-86%	C-	70-72%	E	59% and below

## Test Re-take Policy

Students are allowed to retake ***one test per trimester***. Students must complete the test review for the unit before the 1<sup>st</sup> test in order to be eligible to retake a test. If a student has done this and is interested in a retake, they must come in for help before or after school to review their original test with me. Then they must come in before or after school a 2<sup>nd</sup> time to actually complete the retake. Students must speak to me about their interest in retaking a test within 3 class periods of receiving their test back and all retakes must take place within two weeks of the original test. The student’s grade for the test will be the grade that they earn on the retake.

## Absences and Make-up Work

When you miss school make up days will be equal to the number of days absent. Special consideration will be given to long-term absences or serious illness. **When you are absent it is *your responsibility* to find out what you missed.** A great way to stay on track is to check my website, watch any video tutorials relevant to that day and print and do your best to complete any work that was assigned that day.

**Required Class Materials (everyday!)**

- ✓ Pencil and paper
- ✓ 3-Ring Binder – Must have this by \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✓ Any special materials or handouts you may need for the day

**A Couple Suggestions for Success...**

- Don't wait to ask for help. One of the hardest things to do is catch up when you've fallen behind. If you are having trouble understanding something, let me know right away.
- Take advantage of the online tutorials. They are a great resource on those evenings when you are having difficulty with your homework as well as a way to review what we have been learning when you are at home.

**My Contact Information**

If you, or your parents, have any questions or concerns about your progress in this class at any point throughout the year, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached through e-mail ([thelenc@dewittschools.net](mailto:thelenc@dewittschools.net)) or by phone at (517)668-3281.

I will be available during seminar, before school, and after school for students to come in and get extra help if needed. Students should definitely take advantage of these opportunities. I love to see extra initiative from students. I am looking forward to working with and getting to know all of you.

Best Wishes,

Mrs. Thelen