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**8th Grade Math Lab**

**Syllabus**

Welcome to 8th Grade Math Lab at DeWitt Junior High School!

Students in math lab will actually have two periods of math each day. They will have Math Lab as their first class of the day and then they will also have 8th Grade Math during one of their hours later in the day. Math lab is designed to help support students in their current math class through the pre-teaching of concepts as well as reviewing and allowing extra time for practice. In addition to supporting the regular math curriculum, students in math lab will also spend a lot of time working on strengthening and enhancing their basic math skills such as multiplication facts, operations with fractions, fluency with decimals and percents, and basic number sense.

This class will be co-taught. Co-teaching is a model where two teachers work together in one classroom for the benefit of all students. This means that your child will have two qualified professionals planning, instructing, and assessing his or her learning. We hope that you understand the benefits that your child will receive from this valuable opportunity.

# A Little Bit About the Teachers

Christine Drayton (Thelen) has a bachelor’s degree in science as well as secondary mathematics education from Michigan State University. She recently completed her master’s degree in Educational Administration from Michigan State University.  This will be her seventh year teaching at DeWitt Jr. High School. She is a graduate from DeWitt High School. When Ms. Drayton is not busy teaching, she enjoys coaching and playing sports. She is currently the Varsity volleyball coach at DeWitt High School. Ms. Drayton will be on maternity leave for the beginning of this school year and there will be a long term substitute teacher in her position during that time.

Courtney Thelen has 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. Although this will be her 10th year teaching in DeWitt, it will be her 12th year of teaching overall. She looks forward to working with you to help your child have a successful mathematics experience this year.

**Class Website**

We 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](http://www.mrsthelen.weebly.com/). There are some great resources on this website for students to access to help them practice their basic skills. One of these is IXL. IXL is a great site with thousands of skills for practicing math. IXL has an unlimited number of practice questions, step-by-step explanations, engaging awards and certificates, easy-to-read progress reports, and much, much more.

**Class Reminders**

I will be using remind.com as a way to communicate with students and send them text messages to remind them of upcoming quizzes, tests, projects, etc… This is totally optional but if you or your student would like to receive these reminders, you can sign up by doing the following…

Text Message: @9239e5 Number: (252)643-7009

**Classroom Rules - “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.

## **Grading**

## Students will receive a grade of “Credit” or “No Credit” for math lab. Students will earn points by…

* Being on task and participating in class activities.
* Completing in-class assignments.
* Progressing in their knowledge of mathematical basic skills
* Completing the IXL skills that are assigned each week.

## **Grading Scale**

# Credit – 75% or above

No Credit – 74% or below

# Required Class Materials (everyday!)

* Pencil and paper
* Three Ring Math Binder
* Any special materials or handouts you may need for the day

**Our 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 us.

Courtney Thelen Christy Drayton

(517)668-3281 (517)-668-3278

[thelenc@dewittschools.net](mailto:thelenc@dewittschools.net) [draytonc@dewittschools.net](mailto:draytonc@dewittschools.net)

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

Best Wishes,

Mrs. Drayton & Mrs. Thelen

*Please Detach and Return This Page*

8th Grade Math Lab

Ms. Drayton and Mrs.Thelen

Please take a moment to review this letter together and sign below to verify that you are aware of the expectations of 8th Grade Math Lab.

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Student's Name Student's Signature

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Parent's Name Parent's Signature

Parent Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Method of Contact: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Students,*

*In the space below, please write anything that you would like to share with me about yourself as a learner or any questions that you have about this class. Thank you.*

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*Parents,*

*In the space below, please share with me any information that you feel I should know about your child. If you have any questions, please let me know and I will contact you. Thank you.*

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