

# Class Procedures

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Your grade:

- Your grade in this course is based on the percent of points you accumulate on tests, quizzes and problem sets. I simply add up your points and divide by the total.
- Homework is not part of your grade. Before each test, I will collect your problem packet and determine the percent completed. This score is entered in the grade book for informational purposes only.
- Your performance on tests and quizzes however, is directly related to the amount of effort you put into the problem packets.

Tests/quizzes/problem sets:

- We will have major assessments at the end of each unit. These tests are normally worth 50-100 points depending on the unit.
- You should be prepared to take a quiz at any time. The quiz topics are listed on my website. The quizzes don't come daily...just a random times.
- There will be times when I assign a set of problems to be completed outside of class. I will explain the details as I give them out. Normally, you can work together on them.

Memorization:

- Knowing how to do problems accurately is a necessary but insufficient condition for success on the AP test. You will also need to be able to do problems quickly.
- In order to do this, you will have to memorize a fairly large amount of material. I will be very clear on what needs to be memorized.
- I highly encourage to start making flash cards early and keep up with them all year!

Working in the problem packets:

- You will get a packet of problems to complete for each unit. It is critical that you complete every single problem. The problems have been specially chosen to reflect all the different nuances of the problem types we face.
- I will let you know where you should be in the packets frequently.
- You should work in the packets as if you were working a test or quiz problem. Presentation is absolutely critical and we will work on "presentation" throughout the year. Work in pencil, be neat. Be clear, concise and complete.
- Your success in this course depends on the amount of effort you put into the packets. We learn mathematics by doing mathematics...not watching some one else do it.

“Normal” class procedure:

- What we do in class each day will vary. If I give a quiz, it will come at the start of class. After everyone is done (5 minutes or so), we will go over the quiz.
- After the quiz, we will begin our topic for the day. Sometimes it will be a lecture, more often a guided discussion. I will be asking a lot of questions and your participation is vital. Don't be afraid to “put in you two cents worth”!
- The presentation/discussion of the new material will take up most of the class period. We will not have time in class to go over problems from the packets. This may be very different from other math classes you have had in which the teacher always asks, “Ok, are there any questions about the homework?” You will likely never hear me say that. We have a myriad of topics to get through and we just do not have time to discuss “homework” during class.
- If you have questions about packet problems, let me know and we can meet outside of class. We have a lot of exciting, wonderful, exotic mathematics to study and you can expect a new topic almost every day.

Your textbook

- I expect you to read the textbook. It is online and so is always available. I wrote it so that it could be read by students! As we move through topics make sure you read the applicable section of the text.
- Read the text slowly and carefully...with a pencil an paper handy. Reading mathematics is very, very different from any other type of reading. Don't skim, don't skip...read every word.

Help outside of class

- You will all need to find a time to meet with me to ask questions.
- I am available before school (about 7:10), after school, 1<sup>st</sup> hour, 2<sup>nd</sup> hour and 7<sup>th</sup> hour.
- I never mind coming early or staying late to help you!
- Don't get behind—if you have any question about any little part of any problem, come and ask.