



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!) assigned 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. 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 are placed in the **Algebra I library** to supplement our class work. They will practice concepts from the library with teacher intervention. When ready, the students will take a test over the practiced material. When a 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

Several areas of achievement are assessed in order to determine a grade in mathematics. Class work/tests, Accelerated Math Tests and Reviews, Pringles and homework are all considered. Students will not be tested in AM until I feel comfortable that they are ready for the material. **I take grades from AM cumulative Reviews and Tests.** The current average for both areas will always be printed on their TOPS report.

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. If a student shows concentrated effort and reasonable attempts are made on the assignment, the grade stays at 100. If a student shows reasonable attempts but needs additional assistance, he/she may make an appointment to see me during recess for extra help. However, 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. I do not offer extra credit in Algebra I.

CALCULATORS

In Algebra I, the TI-84+ graphing calculators are used on a regular basis 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 not permitted to use calculators on tests and will 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 best reach me by e-mail at tracey.williamson@ctk.org.

Sincerely,

Tracey Williamson
Christ the King School
Math Specialist Grades 6-8

CLASSROOM RULES

These rules are posted on the wall for students to see every day.

- Follow directions the first time they are given.
- Be on time and prepared for class.
- Keep hands, feet and objectives to yourself.
- Raise your hand for recognition to speak.
- Show respect for self, others and school property.

POSITIVES

- Praise, positive communication with parents.
- Chances
- Motivational awards through Accelerated Math program

CONSEQUENCES

- First warning – verbal, not points deducted
- Second warning – fine (grades 7/8) or card pulled (grade 6)
- Third warning – see above plus isolated lunch and recess