

The Villages Charter Middle School
2023-2024 Pre-Algebra - 8th Grade
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Dawn Andrews

E-Mail: Dawn.Andrews@tvcs.org

Phone: (352) 259-0044

Room # 214

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND CONTENT:

This class is a Pre-Algebra course to prepare students to enter high school with a firm foundation with which to build their mathematical knowledge.

The purpose of the course is to develop algebraic problem solving in real world and mathematical problems. The content will include, but not be limited to the following:

- Solving Problems involving real numbers
- Applying the Laws of Exponents
- Solving Equations and Inequalities
- Understanding Linear Relationships
- Defining, Evaluating, and Comparing Functions
- Understanding Relationships Involving Triangles
- Understanding Congruence and Similarities
- Representing Data and Probability

TEXTBOOK:

Our textbook is Savvas enVision's Florida BEST Grade 8: Pre-Algebra. Students will be given login information in class and on my teacher connection webpage.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ " binder (any color) filled with notebook paper
- 1- one subject spiral notebook
- 1- pack of red pens
- 1 - package of #2 pencils (to be left in classroom)

Additional suggested items: graph paper, 2 tabs dividers

ASSESSMENT:

Students' grades will be determined by using the following categories and percentages in Skyward:

Compliance (HW & CW)	30%
Performance (Mastery- Tests & Quizzes)	70%

Grading Scale: A (90-100) B (80-89) C (70-79) D (60-69) F (0-59)

Assignments/Assessments:

Students will have daily homework assignments that will be due the next school day by the start of class. Students will also be responsible for studying for assessments (see paragraphs below for further explanation). Individual independent practice that the daily homework provides is vital to student success. Homework will be graded on completion. Occasionally, a second grade will be given for select assignments on correction.

Each chapter will have a Mid-Chapter Quiz. The day before the Quiz, I will answer questions and review all the questions on the Quiz Review. Students must study for their quiz in order to succeed. To study, students should redo all of the quiz review questions without looking at the answer or the correct work. Then, students should check their answers. If it is wrong, they have the correct work. They should find their mistake and try the question again. These quizzes will be entered into Skyward in the Performance/Mastery category out of 50 points.

Each chapter will have a Chapter Test. This is a graded assignment. The day before the test, I will answer questions and review all the questions on the Test Review. Students must study for their test in order to succeed. Please see the studying procedure in the paragraph above for successful studying techniques. There will be a Practice Test in the online textbook that students may complete for up to 5 extra credit points on the chapter test. I will take the percentage grade earned as a decimal on the Practice Test, multiply it to 5, and that is how many points of extra credit is earned.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS/RULES

1. Be on time and where you are supposed to be. (Prompt)
2. Be prepared and on task. (Prepared)
3. Ask for what you need. (Positive)
4. Strive for excellence and always do your best. (Productive)
5. Respect the rights, responsibility, and property of others. (Polite)

You are responsible for reading and following the student handbook as well as classroom procedures and classroom rules. When you make a choice that violates classroom and/or school rules, disciplinary consequences will be implemented. Please refer to the following documents found on the tvcs.org website under "middle school", "Forms/Documents/Newsletters":

- VCMS Student Handbook
- 23-24 Classroom Behavior Management Plan

VCMS Bell Schedule (Regular)

Homeroom/1st period: 7:55-9:00 (Homeroom: 15 minutes)
2nd period: 9:04-9:54
3rd period: 9:58-10:48
4th period: 10:52-11:42
5th period: 11:46-1:06 (including a 25-minute lunch period)
6th period: 1:10-2:00
7th period: 2:04-2:55

VCMS Bell Schedule (Assembly)

Homeroom/1st period: 7:55-8:55 (Homeroom: 15 minutes)
2nd period: 8:59-9:43
3rd period: 9:47-10:31
4th period: 10:35-11:19
5th period: 11:23-12:35 (including a 25-minute lunch period)
6th period: 12:39-1:23
7th period: 1:27-2:11
Passing Time To Gym: 2:11 -2:20
Assembly: 2:20 - 2:50
Passing time to 7th Period: 2:50 - 2:55

PROCEDURES

Daily Required Materials:

- ❖ You are responsible for bringing your math binder, pencil, paper, and eraser to class daily. You must also have all completed assignments turned in on time. Students who choose to come to class unprepared also choose consequences including parent contact, detention, and possibly a discipline referral for repeated offenses.
- ❖ Enter the class quietly with all necessary materials. You should be seated QUIETLY when the tardy bell rings, take out necessary materials for the class and begin working on the classroom activity listed on the board as "Classwork".
- ❖ To ensure that our time together is used wisely, be sure to use the restroom or get water during class changes. I know that you will have some emergencies during the course of the year; however, emergencies cannot always be before or during Math class. You may have a water bottle with CLEAR water only at your desk. Please be sure to refill your water bottle between classes.

Google Classroom:

Students will enroll into my Google Classroom the first day of school. All videos with embedded questions will be in EdPuzzle. The link to EdPuzzle will be on my teacher connection webpage and in Clever. Most classwork practice assignments will be in MathXL. Students will log into MathXL through Clever. Other platforms used for assignments will be ALEKS, Edulastic, and Quizizz. If you would like to help your child manage assignments in the Google Classroom, please ask your child to share his/her password, as I cannot add you into the Google Classroom. All assignments are posted on my Teacher Connection webpage calendar, as well as the Google Classroom.

Bell Ringer/Dismissal:

- Dismissal at the end of the class—Please remain seated and quiet until dismissed. The area around your desk must be clear of all trash ensuring a clean environment for the next group of students. I will dismiss you when the previous two expectations have been met.

Make-up Work:

- If you are absent from school, it is your responsibility to obtain make-up work from the Google Classroom or my teacher connection webpage. All classwork and homework assignments are posted on my teacher connection webpage to assist you by keeping you informed. Assignments are also posted on the board in the classroom. Any handouts will have your name on them and may be collected from the class handout folder or a digital copy is in the Google Classroom. To receive credit for missed work due to an absence, a student must turn in assignments upon returning to school within the number of days missed plus one day except as noted under the Consequences section of the Disciplinary Policy (please see Student Agenda Planner.) However, any assignment that has a previously determined due date, that due date must be observed unless arrangements have been made with the assigning teacher. **It is vitally important to your child's progress in Math that he/she keeps up with the homework and completes it on time even while absent.** It is much easier for your child to get help and re-teaching on a few questions than to be a lesson or two behind their classmates and try to make it up with me in 50 minutes while I am teaching a different lesson to the rest of the class. Any variation of this must be approved by the teacher.

Late Work:

- If you do not turn in your assignments on time, points will be deducted as per the VCMS policy as follows: 1 day late earns a maximum of 60%, 2 days late or more is a 0%. If you choose not to complete homework or classwork in a satisfactory and timely manner, you should expect your work to be graded accordingly. I will contact parents by email if an assignment is late.

IMPORTANT DATES

- All Important Dates for class and homework assignments will be listed on the school's website: www.tvcs.org. Click on the Middle School tab, then click on Teacher Connection, and finally on Dawn Andrews.

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AND COMMUNICATION

I am available to any student or parent requesting additional assistance or needing additional information. If you choose to email me at Dawn.Andrews@tvcs.org, please remember to put "Student" in the subject line so your email will reach me through the VCS web filter. If you prefer to contact me by phone, please call the school office and leave a message requesting me to return your phone call. If I need to contact you, I will first try to contact you through email unless you have indicated a preference for phone contact on the Syllabus return form. I do check my emails at least once a night, so that is the best way to get an answer quickly.

Electronic Signature for Syllabus

Please click on this link and fill out this form to indicate that you have read this syllabus:

[23-24 Andrews Pre-Algebra Syllabus Electronic Signature Form](#)

I am looking forward to a fantastic school year!

Dawn Andrews