

## Math 8

Mr. Ken Kain

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## **Let's Grow!**

### 2020 – 2021 Course Description

This course is designed to challenge all students, regardless of their previous accomplishments. It is critical to me that all students are given the opportunity and challenge to **GROW** as much as possible. Our discussions will center on growth and the learning process and rarely on the grading outcomes.

**Essential Learnings** As per the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics, Math 8 will focus on the following areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

### **Supplies**

It is my expectation that you will possess the following supplies each day.

Calculator (Scientific is sufficient)

Pen(s) and Pencil(s)

Graph or engineering paper should be used for all graphing work

Dry Erase Markers – students will likely need 6 or more per quarter for their own use. This is a very important part of the instruction in this class! Many students will need more.

### **Grading Policies**

All assignments will be graded on a weighted system. Your grade will be based on topic tests, quizzes, mastery assignments, and class and homework. In addition to chapter tests, a comprehensive final exam will be given at the end of the semester. Grades are a reflection of the currently demonstrated understanding of the course content.

Your overall grade will be based on the following:

1. Practice/Work 25%
2. Skills Quizzes 15%
3. Tests/Assessments 50%
4. Semester/Final 10%

**Grading Scale:**

90 – 100 % A

80 - 89 % B

70 - 79 % C

60 - 69 % D

0 - 59 % F

***All students will have the opportunity to improve any skills quiz score. Other opportunities to improve scores may exist at teacher discretion. Students will be asked to demonstrate new understanding prior to being allowed to retake an assessment in addition to having completed all practice assignments.***

**Assessments (50% of your grade)- Topic Mastery Tests**

There will be a mastery test at the middle and end of each topic section. Tests may include material from earlier chapters, as well. There will be a total of 16 mastery tests given at the middle and end of each learning unit during the school year. These units vary in length, but students can plan on a mastery test every 1 to 2 weeks.

**Practice/Class Work (25% of your grade)**

-Class Work - There may be some assignments and projects that will be completed in class. Those will be graded based on participation, completeness and correctness. This will include individual exploration projects and similar works. When appropriate a rubric will be provided.

The practice category will include all of the work designed to build learning and understanding for the course standards. Lesson quizzes will be given after each practice set to determine the students grade toward mastery on each topic. These scores, along with Math XL scores, will be listed in Infinite Campus so that the student can track their progress toward mastering the content. Most videos will be accompanied by a short quiz that will also be graded and entered in IC. This category must be kept at 100% complete to allow students to have an opportunity to redo graded assessments.

**Skills quizzes (15%)**

-Quizzes - There will be multiple mastery quizzes given to check progress toward mastery learning for essential topics. These quizzes will be a key learning opportunity for a student to check their understanding of skills that are critical for success in this course and beyond. These quizzes will focus on a specific topic and will be given as soon as the course practice and assessment have been completed.

**Semester/Final Exam (10% of your grade)**

The final will be comprehensive and an important assessment for determining your final grade, Homework/Classwork – the score in Infinite Campus for each assignment will be the total of points earned from the assigned problems/activities.

## **Math XL Progress will be included in the Practice**

Each week students will be assigned various skill building activities. The students will work online and be responsible for a progress goal – working outside of class on the assignments if necessary.

## **Classroom Expectations and Policies**

### **Classroom Conduct:**

We will be building our unique set of classroom expectations during our first days together; when those norms have been completed students will be expected to follow those norms.

### **In Class work**

It is my belief that students will generally be given enough time in class to complete all assigned work. If they do not use their time wisely, they will end up working outside of class to finish. It is my preference that all work is done in class so the students can access their learning support system of teacher and peers. Students will be expected to respect the learning environment of their classmates at all times.

### **Make-up Work**

#### **• Home/Class Work**

- Excused absences: You are responsible for obtaining the material covered. Upon returning to school, you have two days to complete missing assignments unless different arrangements are made with the teacher.
- Late work/Redo: Students may turn in any assignments until the specified date for full credit. If a student would like to redo an assignment they should check in with the teacher for guidance on determining new understanding before the redo is completed.

#### **• Test Make-up**

- A testing environment is required for all tests or quizzes. We will work out the best environment for in person and remote students.
- If you are absent for a test or quiz, it is your responsibility to schedule a make-up session with the teacher.

### **Cheating**

Cheating includes, but is not limited to, copying work, sharing or receiving test or quiz answers, talking during a test or quiz, and turning in another student's work as your own. The consequences include a zero for that assignment and possible disciplinary action.

Because of the daily use of chromebooks, **no food or drinks** will be allowed in the room except for capped water bottles. The water bottles should be kept away from all technology.

### **Extra Help**

For this school year the best option for help will be during face to face class times for those attending in person. For students working remotely - as well as the in person students - I am available during posted help times. I will post the current available times and dates each week.

### **Canvas Website**

The class Canvas site is a valuable tool with numerous resources to assist you with the content in this class. The site has the Home/Class work assignment & due dates on the calendar. In addition it lists the same contact information contained in this syllabus.

### **Pearson Online Resources**

Each student will have access to online resources at <https://www.pearsonrealize.com/> using your school Google account login as follows:

Username: [first.last@jajags.com](mailto:first.last@jajags.com) password: Last Student ID no spaces last name capitalized

For example: [jane.smith@jajags.com](mailto:jane.smith@jajags.com) Smith213245

Students will have access to the online version of the text in addition to a number of different types of tutorials and assignments.

### **Grade Reports**

Grades may be accessed 24/7 in Canvas and on Infinite Campus through the Parent Portal. If you have difficulty logging in, please contact me as soon as possible. Parents may email or call me if they have a concern or question about their child's progress in this class.

Our focus will be on learning and not just earning a grade. However, each grade earned should be an indication of how a student is progressing in relation to the learning goals. If a student is not earning the grade that they had hoped for it is an indicator that more work will need to be done to demonstrate mastery of the learning standards. My focus will be on providing students feedback on how they are progressing toward these goals. Communication is the key.

**I am looking forward to working with your student this year. If you or your student has any questions you would like to ask or concerns to share with me, please feel free to call or email me at any time. I check my voicemail after school every day. I check email constantly throughout the day.**

***Please acknowledge that you have read this syllabus but do not sign and return this page to Mr. Kain. You can email me with any questions, concerns, or best methods for contacting you.***

I have read and understand the above course policies.

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*Student name* *date*

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*Parent/Guardian signature* *date*

Best way to contact you: \_\_\_\_\_

Any other concerns or items that you may want me to know about your student:

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