

8th Grade Math News



Maximizing Learning Opportunities

Students are provided quality instruction in class. Lessons are developed by a team of math teachers that focus on the learning targets outlined in the CCSS (Common Core State Standards). In class, we also teach and reinforce habits that make successful mathematicians.

We expect that students fully participate in the learning activities that happen in class. This learning is often done in small teams and research shows that this method of learning increases student performance.

If a student chooses to miss out on this opportunity, they will need to complete the classwork alone. This is not an impossible task. It is difficult, however, as they must do the same work without the benefit of their team and the classroom discussions and activities that facilitate the learning.

Our teaching teams also assign homework as needed. This is an opportunity for students to individually practice and master the skills learned in class. It is not given every day, and when it is given, it should take no more than 30 minutes to complete. Often, but not always, students are given time in class to at least begin the work. Additionally, many students have an ATI class they can use to get help with math work as needed.

It is fully expected that students complete homework on time when it is assigned. Time is allotted to correct and review classwork and assignments, and address follow-up questions from students. Most students who engage in this process and complete the learning activities and assignments are successful in demonstrating proficiency in math.

About Retakes of Quizzes and Tests

Sometimes, despite the best efforts of parents and teachers, students do not successfully master learning a concept. When this happens in math, we will work with the student to help them reach the learning target in question. That means we will provide a retake opportunity for the quiz that measured the essential skills of the learning target. To prepare for and qualify for a retake, a student will arrange a meeting with their teacher.

They will bring to the meeting:

- The quiz they want to retake, with all errors corrected
- All classwork and homework for that unit completed and corrected thoroughly

To make this simpler, every summative exam has a checklist of these assignments and tasks. The checklist can be found on my website: <https://tpomeroy.weebly.com/> Students print it off, check the boxes for each task that is completed, get a parent signature, and bring all the work to a conference with the teacher.

During the meeting, the teacher will assess whether they are ready to retake the quiz. If they are ready, a time will be arranged for a retake. If they are not yet ready, the teacher may require some additional practice and/or a help session prior to the retake.

Students may also be given opportunities for additional instruction and retesting in ATI period.