

Mr. Underwood's 6th Grade Math Syllabus

Hello parents my name is Chris Underwood and I will be teaching your children at DIS in 6th grade math. I have put together a little bit of information about myself in order for you to get familiar with me. I graduated from Texas A&M University in the spring of 1999 and happened to get real lucky by landing a job in the Carroll I.S.D. I finished my 12th year of teaching last year and just like always it was extremely rewarding. I am eager to get back into the swing of things and make this year even better and more successful than the previous ones. I am blessed to have married my high school sweetheart and we have two beautiful boys, Jackson (6) and Lucas (4). Jackson is will be in 1st grade at WGES this year. I am a very outgoing person and believe that in school the students must have fun while learning. So have them ready to get involved in the learning process.

COURSE INTRODUCTION

Mathematics helps students develop their ability to solve problems and reason logically. It offers to curious, energetic students a way to explore and make sense of their world. The compacted mathematics curriculum (in which we teach all Texas 6th and 7th grade objectives) is designed to expand students' knowledge across a broad range of topics. Classroom activities will provide students the opportunity to work both individually and in small groups and with manipulatives for concept development and for problem solving.

COURSE DESIGN OVERVIEW (approximate)

1 st semester	2 nd semester
2 weeks - Operations w/ Whole #'s & Decimals	1 week - Measurement & Conv.w/ Proportions
2 weeks - Algebraic Thinking	1 week - Geometry-Part I
1 weeks – Statistics	1 week - Geometry-Part II
2 week - Integers	1 week – Probability
1 weeks - Number Theory	2 week2 – Surface Area
2 weeks - Meaning of Fractions	1 weeks – STAAR Review
2 weeks - Ratio, Proportion, Percent	1 week of STAAR Test
	2 weeks - Fractions-Multiplication & Division

TEXTBOOK

All compacted math students will be using McDougal Littell Math, Course 2. The book will be offered online at ClassZone.com. The steps to access the online book will be provided soon.

ASSIGNMENT EXPECTATIONS

1. I will accept all work that is completed in **PENCIL**.
2. I will accept all papers which **SHOW ALL WORK** unless specific directions state otherwise.
3. I will accept work always completed **ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER** unless otherwise directed.

HOMEWORK

Students should expect homework 3-4 out of the 5 nights in math class. Math homework should be no more than 30 uninterrupted minutes each night. Continuous good use of class time will limit the amount of time required at home to complete assignments. If a student is absent, it is the responsibility of the **STUDENT** to make-up all work missed.

PROJECTS

We will work on numerous projects throughout the school year. Students may sometimes have the option to work alone or in a group. Groups will be decided sometimes by me, sometimes by the students, and sometimes at random. Groups may consist of 2, 3, 4, or 5 students. Students tend to learn a great deal by working in teams together. When it comes to grading projects, I am very careful to assign **INDIVIDUAL** grades, though. I do not think it is fair to penalize one student because their partner did not do his or her portion.

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GRADING PROCEDURES

As a rough guide, grading will be approximately distributed as follows:

Homework/Classwork/Projects/Quizzes- We will do assignments that will have to be completed before the student leaves the class. This will include but not limited to daily quizzes, warm-ups and projects. Students will have a project during most units to complete. Homework will be given except prior to holidays. This is 45% of the student's grade.

Tests- Quizzes and tests will be given at the end of each unit. Students will be informed at least three class periods prior to the quiz or test. Quizzes consist of smaller parts of a unit whereas a test will cover the entire unit. This is 55% of the student's grade.

EXTRA CREDIT may be offered towards the end of each six weeks.

I use Skyward to post all of my grades.

UNDERWOOD'S MOST WANTED

Underwood's Most Wanted are designed to encourage a positive classroom environment and to acknowledge the extra effort that every student exhibits. When a student brings home a Most Wanted slip ask him or her specifically WHY it was given. I ask for your signature so that I know the student is letting you in on their good work or deed. Signed slips are then entered into drawings for homework passes, deletion of review problems, or trinkets.

BINDER ORGANIZATION

Assignment Notebook- The student will come in daily and write down their objective and any homework that may be given. Any important information and dates will also need to be written down daily. This way the student and parent will always know what is currently going on in class and what either is due or coming up.

Dividers- Their binder will consist of at least four dividers; math, science, social studies, and language arts. Behind their math divider they will be in charge of writing down their assignments on their table of contents sheet.

Spiral- We take notes daily in class and students must have a spiral to keep all of their information in one place. I do not allow students to use loose leaf paper unless they forget their spiral one day and will staple the loose leaf notes in it before entering class the following day.

LATE WORK

Late work can have a major effect on a student's math grade. There have been times in the past where the total amount of late work in class has reached high levels. While I try to be up-to-date as possible in reminding students that they have late work, it is the **STUDENT'S responsibility** to remember to turn in late work whether or not I remind them. One day late is 15 points off. 2 days late is 30 points off. 3 or more days late is a zero.

MAKE – UP WORK

A student will complete make-up classwork and homework from which they were absent at home. An appropriate due date will be set once the student has returned to school and we have talked. Make-ups for quizzes or tests are during tutoring times. An appropriate test date will be set once the student has returned to school and we have talked.

MISSING WORK

A student who does not have their assignments will have working lunch with me or another staff person and miss their recess. The student will get their lunch and then immediately report to working lunch. Upon completion of their assignment the student will no longer have to attend working lunch. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE STUDENT COMPLETE ALL ASSIGNED WORK ON TIME.**

TUTORING

Tutoring is available every morning from 7:55 -8:25. These dates may change as the year progresses, so check in with me. My students are welcome to visit another 6th grade math teacher if I am unavailable.

CHEATING POLICY

Any student caught cheating will receive a zero and their parents will be notified.

RETESTING

There are no retests. It is very important the student is prepared everyday for class.

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SUPPLIES

The student is in charge of bringing the appropriate supplies to class everyday. There is a whiteboard outside my room that informs the student what they will need for that day. However, everyday they will need to bring at least their math spiral and binder with their assignment notebook. These are mandatory.

TARDY

Daily warm-ups are given during the first 5-10 minutes of class. If a student is tardy they miss all or part of the exercise, which could affect their grade. It is very important that the student is in class and seated at the time the bell rings. If a student is excessively tardy the parents will be notified.

TIPS FOR PARENTS

1. Never pick up the pencil yourself! Ask good questions and give clear directions, but have the student do all the work!
2. Give the littlest hint you can without telling how to solve the problem.
3. Always be encouraging. Please don't ever say "This is so easy" or "I already know how to do this". Also do not tell your student, "Well, I was never good at math!" Some students believe that since mom or dad was never good at math that they will never be successful either.

School Phone- (817) 949-5319

E-mail address- chris.underwood@southlakecarroll.edu

Classroom Social Networking Site – <http://edmodo.com>


Twitter account – Text [follow mrunderwoodmath](#) to 40404 to get updates

Website- <http://www.mrunderwood.com> – assignments, calendars, links, tutorials

Gradebook web site- <https://skyward.southlakecarroll.edu/scripts/cgiip.exe/WService=wsFam/fwemnu01.w>

I thank you in advance for your assistance and cooperation during your student's sixth grade journey. Please feel free to call or email me at any time should you have a question or concern. Please keep the previous pages to refer to during the year and complete the slip below and return with your student to school after you have **BOTH** read this syllabus.

Cut here and
return to Mr.
Underwood



"I have read and I understand the mathematics syllabus."

Mr. Underwood's 6th Grade Math Syllabus

STUDENT

DATE

PARENT(S)

DATE