

Welcome to your Focus on Geometry class. The purpose of this class is to develop analytical skills that will transfer to future study of mathematics and to show how math exists in everyday life. With the adoption of the new Common Core Content Standards, there will be more integration of critical thinking and problem-solving than what you might be used to up to now. There will be many times when the class moves fast; so it will be necessary that you keep up with the work, participate fully in class, and ask questions when you have them.

Like Jerry Mortensen said, “Math is not a spectator sport”; so I expect my students to be fully engaged in class, whatever the activity or assignment may be. Above all, try to have a positive attitude about math, regardless of the type of experience you might have had in the past.

Below is some general information for our class. Please make sure to have your parent(s)/guardian(s) read the letter, and sign and detach the receipt below. I will collect the receipt at the door before class tomorrow; so, please, have it ready to submit.

Thank you, and let us have a great year,
Mrs. Bass

Materials recommended: It is necessary to have these materials every day:

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| 1) Lined white paper | 4) At least two low-odor dry-erase markers (just in case one runs out) |
| 2) Two pencils and an eraser – you may either use pencils with eraser, or a stand-alone eraser. | 5) A 1” or 1 ½” hard binder |
| 3) Textbook | 6) Your notes |
| | 7) A scientific calculator (e.g., TI-30X, TI-30XA) |

Grade composition: Your grade will be based on the following percentages and scale:

Tests and projects: 40%	90-100%: A
Quizzes and performance tasks: 20%	80-89%: B
Homework: 10%	70-79%: C
Classwork and participation: 10%	60-69%: D
Notes and warm-ups: 10%	59% or below: F
Benchmarks and final exam: 10%	

Classroom expectations

Remember that you are here to learn. Therefore, the following behavior will be expected of you every day:

- 1) Be on time and prepared.
You must be in your seat when the bell rings, and have all your recommended materials with you every day.
- 2) Respect yourself, others, and their property.
- 3) Finish any conversation, eating, drinking or grooming before entering the classroom.
Gum, eating, drinking, grooming, and conversations not assigned by the teacher are not allowed during class. We need to keep our classroom clean and ourselves focused on the subject.
- 4) Remain seated, and put all non-instructional and distracting items away
As mandated by the school, electronic devices, including iPods and cell phones, are not allowed during class. The use of any non-instructional or distracting item is subject to confiscation and detention.
- 5) Listen attentively to your teacher and classmate(s) participating.
- 6) Obey all school rules, and follow directions the first time they are given.



Non-compliance may result in the following consequences:

Reminder/Warning

Detention/Referral

Loss of points

One-on-one conference

Contacting parents

Confiscation

These and other consequences may be applied at the teacher's discretion. (This list is not in any particular order.)

Rewards, on the other hand, may include praise, positive notes, homework passes, and other rewards as teacher sees fit.

Tardy policy

Arriving to class after the bell is considered an "unexcused tardy" unless you have a pass. Excessive tardies may result in school disciplinary action, so make sure to arrive on time.

Homework policy

Homework will be assigned **every day**, including Friday. If applicable, the homework will be stamped for completion the day it is due, graded during class (there will be times when the homework will be to study, so there will be no physical homework to stamp), and collected afterwards. Late homework will be accepted only under special circumstances.

Notes and warm-ups packet

Notes and warm-ups will be submitted at the end of the unit in a packet. There will be a checklist to use to put your packet together. You will have to include your scores and add them up, staple the checklist on top of the packet, and have your packet ready to submit at the door the day it is due. You will have to put your packet in the order given in the checklist, and have somebody double check your scores, and sign that your scores are indeed correct. If a student is caught giving him/herself more credit than he/she obtained, he/she will be subject to academic and/or disciplinary action.

Make-up work

If you are absent, you may find your missing assignments on my website (listed above). You may obtain anything not listed on the website from a classmate. Due to the nature of some activities, make-ups are not always possible.

Tests and quizzes

There will absolutely not be any make-up quizzes. If you miss a quiz, the same percentage that you obtain on the unit test or the next quiz will be applied to the quiz that you missed.

Challenges of the week/Performance tasks


Throughout the year, we will be working on problems or questions that require analysis and skills application. It is important to not feel discouraged by these assignments and complete each one of these assignments as their main purpose is to develop analytical skills.

Checking your grade

Grades will be posted periodically on the window outside the classroom. However, your parents and you either have or will have access to your grades on Zangle/Q. It is your responsibility to check your grade on a regular basis. If you need to speak to me about your grade, please see me or send me an e-mail.

Help

If you have questions about the homework or a topic covered in class, you may obtain help during class by asking me, your partner, or your group; by meeting with me for one-on-one help— just see me to find a time that works for both of us; or by attending Link Crew or after-school tutoring. Make sure to ask for help if you need it.

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I, _____ (name of parent or guardian), and my student,
_____ (name of student), have read and understand the guidelines, procedures,
requirements and expectations set forth in Mrs. Bass's letter, and agree to follow them, and do our best to have a great year.

Signature of parent/guardian

Student's signature

Date

Parent's e-mail address and/or telephone number

Period