

Hey, new kid –

Welcome to East Tipp! These are a few things about math class that I told everybody else during the first week of school. If you have any questions about any of it, please let me know.

Class Policies

On your first day, I probably gave you a list of class policies and grading policies. That's a good place to start learning about the class. The back of that page tells you about some stuff I've got online. When you get a minute, you should totally go to etm.tscschools.net to learn more about this class and the school in general.

Homework Policies

You are going to have homework in math class pretty much every day. The only days you won't have homework are if we just had a quiz or just had a test ... or if we have a test the next day. The only homework for that day will be to study for the test. Every other day, though, you'll have something to do.

Unless I say otherwise, homework is always due the next day. It will almost always be graded on the basis of ten points. Six of the points are what I call 'effort points'. In other words, if you do the whole assignment, show your work when you're supposed to, and make an effort to do your best work on the assignment, I'll give you six out of ten right off the bat. If not, I won't.

The other four points come from problems I pick out to grade on the assignment. There will most often be two such problems, graded at two points apiece. If you get both of them right and do the whole thing, you'll get ten out of ten. If you only get one right and do the whole thing, you'll get eight.

I usually give fifteen minutes or so at the end of each class to get started. You can come back to me during homeroom to ask any questions you might have. And we always take a few minutes at the beginning of class to talk about any problems you have with the homework that's due that day. So, if you have problems, there are lots of opportunities to get help.

Homework should always be done in pencil. When there is work to show, please show it. Don't do your work on a scrap piece of paper and then throw it away like you did it in your head. I want to know if you know how to do the problems, not just if you were able to generate a list of answers for me.

Notebook

Ten percent of your grade in math class is based on a notebook you will keep. You will get graded on how you do on your notebook quizzes. You could have a notebook quiz at any time without warning, but you'll definitely have one on the day before every test.

You'll find out that a notebook quiz is a pretty easy thing to do. Basically, you just keep track of your class papers, and have them ready to reference when you take a notebook quiz.

Until you've been in the class for a few days, it's pretty hard to describe exactly what you need to do to keep a notebook. We'll talk about that face-to-face. Until then, it's very important that you keep ALL your papers from class, including the page of class policies I give you on your first day. Don't throw anything away until I tell you it's OK.

Bonus Opportunities

Every quiz and every test you take with me will have at least one bonus problem on it. Aside from those, I have an online bonus series called 'Infinity' available for you.

If you go to <http://www.tkrice.com/booklist/infinity/infinity.htm>, you'll see the full explanation of how you can turn just one question a day into big news for you. The mechanism has been built for you to keep your math skills sharp and your course grade strong at the same time by doing a review problem each day.

Points earned on these bonus problems can add up to an extra five percent on your overall grade, so that's definitely something you should investigate. There aren't a ton of reminders about this program in class, so make a plan to check in as often as you can. Get to it, Junior! If you have any questions about it, please let me know.

Passport Cards

Inside your school handbook, you'll find four pages of passport cards; there is one card for each quarter.

If you are tardy to class, need to leave for the restroom, or don't have all your materials for class, your teacher (all through the school – not just me) will sign your passport card. As you can see on the card, there are five blanks in the first section. If you fill all five blanks in the first section, you will need to serve an after-school detention.

Each section after the first has only three blanks; detentions will come a bit quicker then.

If your teacher needs to sign your passport and you don't have it with you, you will have 24 hours to produce it. If you can't produce it in 24 hours, the passport will be assumed to be full and you will serve a detention.

Everyone forgets things sometimes, or is tardy to class occasionally, or has to use the restroom during class once in a while. That's why you have five blanks before you get a detention. Make sure you use them wisely.

Other Information

After you've read this and whatever is on the web, you may still have questions about how things work in this class or at this school. If so, please ask! Most kids here are really helpful, but if you get someone who tells you something that you're not sure you should believe (*We always wear our bathing suits on Fridays!*), just let me know. You can catch me at school or email me at tkrice@tsc.k12.in.us. Good luck! I hope you love it here.