



Jacob Dibley  
6th Grade Math

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## Math Philosophy

All people can learn math - even if someone has struggled to the point where they truly believe they can't. A big component of learning math is computing numbers and finding answers, but the process behind those answers is equally important.

## Course Content

The Massachusetts Department of Education content standards for 6th grade are what guide the curriculum and topics we will cover this year. Sixth grade sets the stage for success in 7th and 8th grade and beyond. As students develop various levels of mastery of different concepts, some of the coursework will include material the students have never seen before, and others that may be familiar.

This year's areas of focus include:

- **Ratios and Rates**  
*Comparing quantities and solving rate problems with ratios*
- **Fractions, Decimals, & Percents**  
*How fractions, decimals, and percents relate to one another, and solving percent problems*
- **Multiplying and Dividing Decimals & Fractions**  
*Continued practice and mastery of multiplying and dividing fractions in various situations*
- **Coordinate Planes**  
*Comparing and ordering numbers and graphing points on a coordinate plane*
- **Expressions**  
*Working with the four operations to solve and create equivalent expressions*
- **Equations**  
*Apply the four basic operations to solve one-variable equations*
- **Functions & Inequalities**  
*Use words, equations, tables, and graphs to represent functions and inequalities*
- **Area & Volume**  
*Working with 2-D and 3-D shapes and figures to calculate area, surface area & volume*
- **Statistics**  
*Analyzing data to create graphs, tables, etc. and also determine which best represents the data*

## Student Expectations

My greatest expectation is for students to come with a willingness to take academic risks and ask questions. Academic and social expectations can be daunting for students, and can create an environment that makes them risk-averse. From demonstrating problems to sharing ideas, taking risks is a part of learning - particularly when it comes to asking questions. Here are other expectations:

- Come to class prepared and ready to learn
- Access Google Classroom for assignments and links
- Respect self, others and property
- Appropriate use of technology

## **Class Materials**

- Pencils
- Planner
- Charged Chromebook
- Pencil Tip Eraser
- Single Subject Spiral Notebook - College Ruled (I will provide if necessary)

## **Class Assignments /Homework**

All assignments are posted in Aspen and/or Google Classroom and written down by students on a daily basis. Homework is 1 - 3 times each week and primarily graded on effort and completion. Assignments are expected to be turned in on time. If a student is absent for class, it is the student's responsibility to check in with me, or use Google Classroom to find makeup work. If you have questions please ask me so that I may assist you.

## **Grading Philosophy**

The reality is that students learn on different timelines. Not every student is going to reach the same level of mastery on the same day. To that end, students in my class are able to make up graded assignments, quizzes and tests in order to show they are meeting standards. Additional study and/or practice will be expected prior to any quiz or test retake.\*

**\*Retakes should be arranged with the teacher, and will normally be taken outside of the normal class period.**

## **Homework**

Homework will be assigned regularly. The amount students bring home will depend on how well they organize their time because they will nearly always have time to begin their homework while in class. This gives them the opportunity to review the work and ask questions while they have access to me.

## **Grading Criteria**

Grades are calculated based on student performance in five areas. These areas and their percentage of the total grade are as follows:

- Participation/Class work (20%)
- Homework (10%)
- Quizzes (30%)
- Tests/Projects (40%)

Students and parents/guardians should check Aspen regularly to stay up to date on grades and to determine if there are missing assignments.

## **Extra Help**

I am here most Tuesdays, and Thursdays after school. The late bus runs on these days. Students must speak with me personally to request to stay after for extra help or finish incomplete assignments in advance. Enrichment/Intervention period during the school day is also a time when students can sign up with me for extra help.