

Class Guidelines and Grading Policy for Grade 8

Class Guidelines

- Arrive between 7:45-8:00. If you plan on eating breakfast, try to arrive by 7:45.
- Morning Assembly starts at 8:00. Be present by that time to pray with your class and the school community. Important announcements are also made during this time.
- Make sure you are in complete uniform. See the handbook on the school website. On gym days wear your gym uniform.
- Have all supplies and books with you each day. Remember to make sure you have a chapter book to read each day.
- Since the water fountains are shut off, you should have a water bottle with you each day. It is important to stay hydrated, especially in the warmer weather.
- Class participation is an important part of your grade. Raise your hand to ask/answer a question. Speak clearly. When working with a partner, make sure you are listening to your partner and respecting what your partner has to say.
- When assignments are given in class to complete, you need to be actively working on them. If assignments are not completed during class, they need to be completed for homework.
- Complete and submit classwork and homework assignments on time.
- Make sure your name and date are on all assignments that are handed in. You will be instructed on the heading for any writing assignments that will be handed in. All other assignments need to have the date written. Notebook work needs to have the date and the heading that you are instructed to write on the page.
- Make sure you pay attention to when your chrome book needs to be charged. Before morning assembly and before recess/lunch are the times you charge it when it needs a charge. If it needs a charge at the end of the day, you leave it on your desk for me to charge the following morning for you.

Grading Policy

As stated in the Parent/Student Handbook, the achievement mark is based on mastery of material covered in class.

1. classwork/participation
2. homework
3. quizzes
4. formative assessments (most of these are used to inform teachers of areas that might need more emphasis or review)
5. summative assessments

For Math classwork and homework assignments, I use a check system. Check plus indicates mastery, check indicates that the work is good but there were some errors, and check minus indicates that the student did not have a good grasp of the concept and had many errors; students can always redo problems that were wrong and resubmit to me on the following day to better the grade. For ELA, some assignments will be graded using the check system mentioned above, while others will be graded using a rubric or a letter grade (A+, A, A-, etc.). It will depend on what type of assignment it is.

For both Math and ELA, quizzes generally have around 8-10 questions. They are not worth 100 points (I do give what the equivalent value would be out of 100 so it is easier to know how your child did).

Summative assessments have more questions than quizzes do and generally cover more than one concept in Math and more than one story/poem in ELA. Longer stories in ELA may be assessed in the

form of a summative assessment instead of a quiz. Some writing assignments might be graded as a quiz or a summative assessment (that would be noted on the weekly class page). When Math projects and ELA projects/reports are assigned, they will also be used as quiz grades or summative assessment grades (that would be noted on the weekly class page).

Homework – all homework should be written in the planner that the students were given.

When written homework is not assigned, students should be reviewing the material taught in class that day. If classwork is not completed during the school day, it will need to be completed for homework. Homework not turned in the day it is due, can still be handed in the following day, but it will be subject to a grade reduction. I do not give written homework on Fridays, but students may need to study over the weekend for exams the following week or complete classwork that was not finished in class.

Absent Work

On the day that a student returns from an absence, he/she should ask me for the missed classwork and homework. If he/she was absent for one day, the missed work would be due the following day. If a student was absent for multiple days, I will break up the work and assign the day each assignment is due. Students know when their exams are scheduled for; therefore, if an exam was missed during an absence, the exam will be made up the day the student returns.

**I do use online sites in class with the students. DreamBox for Math continues to be used at Holy Family. The weekly goal for students is at least 5 lessons a week. The average amount of time for a lesson is 10 minutes. Therefore, I will give students 50 minutes weekly in class to complete the 5 lessons, usually over the course of two days. If the lessons are not completed during class, then the students need to complete them for homework. DreamBox is part of their classwork grade, and the grade is based on the completion of 5 lessons each week. Khan Academy is sometimes used for both Math and ELA, either as classwork or homework. When it is used, the student's grade is based on whether he/she completed the assigned lessons. For ELA I use Quill(quill.org) for writing and grammar and Readtheory(readtheory.org) for reading comprehension skills. Those sites are usually done on alternating weeks (one week I use Quill and the next week I use Readtheory). What they need to complete on each site depends on the amount of time I have students work on the sites. Just like DreamBox, completion of assignments on these sites is part of their classwork grade. Quill or Readtheory might also be assigned for homework; in that case, the assignment would be part of their homework grade.