

CONSUMER MATH – COURSE SYLLABUS

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Course Description

This course is designed for students who are not college bound. It will help students develop mathematical skills through practical applications and activities that emphasize the application of mathematics in many types of real world endeavors. Topics may include: employment (earnings and taxes), checking and savings accounts, loans, insurance, automobile expenses and housing expenses. Calculators will be used throughout the course. This course may not fulfill admission requirement for four-year institutions.

Standards

Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them,
Reason abstractly and quantitatively,
Model with mathematics,
Use appropriate tools strategically.

Assessments

Practice quizzes and quizzes on each unit of study, Daily practice exercises (homework), Participation (including being ready for class, being appropriately involved in discussions and activities, and answering questions), Peer assessment, and Self-assessment (for which students are expected to check their answers and ask questions as needed).

Content

Various activities and lessons are included in the course with an overall goal of having students be more prepared for life after high school. Most activities have a goal of developing mathematical understanding and applying of mathematical skills. Some of these focus on geometry and spatial relationships. Others are designed to promote perseverance in completing a task. A few strive to develop students' ability to work with others in a productive manner.

Instructional Strategies

Instructional strategies in this course include direct instruction, discussion, note-taking, modeling, technology, and student projects.

Resources

The following are required for Consumer Math class and should be on your desk *everyday* when the bell rings: 1) Homework, 2) Pencil (not a pen), 3) covered Textbook, and 4) a Calculator. Although calculators are provided for in-class use, students will be responsible for obtaining their assigned calculator before class begins in order to be considered ready for class. Remember, part of your grade is determined by being ready by the start of class.

Student Expectations

The main goal of Consumer Math is to prepare students for adult life. It is expected that students act and behave as responsible, mature citizens. Inappropriate actions include those that interfere in this learning process such as being off task, unauthorized use of personal electronics, and distracting others from maximizing their concentration. Students who violate these expectations can lose participation points and may face disciplinary action.

Grading

Grading is determined by students' accuracy on homework, quizzes, projects, and participation. Homework is usually due the next day. Late homework is half credit. No credit for homework turned in after the quiz for that unit, unless an exception has been given. Quizzes are usually worth 25 points. Since homework generally ranges from 10 – 20 points for each assignment, students cannot rely on using quizzes to make up for neglected assignments. It is not possible to participate if you are absent. However, if students see me before school the day they return, they can make up participation points missed.

Communication

needed for coming prepared to class. The following are Required for Consumer math class and should be on your desk *everyday* when the bell rings:

- 1) Homework
- 2) Pencil (not a pen)
- 3) covered Textbook
- 4) CALCULATOR

RESPONSIBILITIES and APPROPRIATE PARTICIPATION: Each student is required to be prepared with all needed materials on their desk when the bell rings. Students are also expected to be ready to begin putting an *effort* into the math lesson for that day. Be organized without losing your homework or other materials. Coming to class on time is also a student responsibility.

Appropriate Participation includes trying to answer questions when called upon or raising your hand to add to the discussion. Participation includes staying ON TASK. This not only includes staying focused on your homework, but paying attention during discussions, and not distracting or disrupting other people. Being in the bathroom or sleeping in class is not participating in class. If you are absent, you are not participating and will lose participation points. These can be made up by seeing me before school when you return. Appropriate participation also means being quiet whenever someone is talking to the class (this includes not talking to others, not using the pencil sharpener, not making inappropriate comments, etc.).

Personal electronic devices

Cell-phones, ipods, headphones, and similar items need to be tucked away out of sight. A student may use such items only when a teacher has given that student permission. Any such device that is used or seen without permission may be confiscated.

Food and drink

No food will be allowed in the class without special permission. Healthy drinks are good, but soda pop and Energy drinks are not allowed.

Summary

Before leaving your locker double check that you have the four needed materials. Consequences for being late, coming to class unprepared, not completing homework on time, being an annoyance to others, violation of food or electronics rules, etc. can result in a warning, loss of points, a detention, or some other consequence as determined appropriate by the teacher.