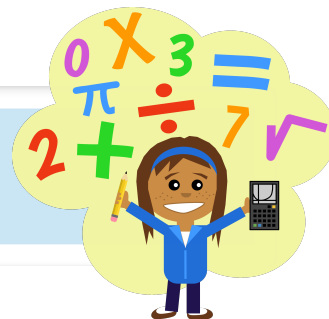


How to Succeed in Class with Mrs. Merkwan



What is this class about?

Algebra is a fun and rigorous course that covers all the fundamentals that will be a part of the rest of the math that I use for the remainder of my educational career.

Understanding (Pre)Algebra is key to being successful in Algebra II, Geometry, Statistics, Trigonometry, Calculus, Accounting, Chemistry, Physics, and most importantly, the real world. Algebra is EVERYWHERE!

WHAT TOPICS WILL WE COVER?

- ~ Solving Rational Expressions and Equations
- ~ Solving and Applying Equations
- ~ Solving and Applying Inequalities
- ~ Graphing Linear Equations and Inequalities
- ~ Exponents and Exponential Functions
- ~ Polynomials and Factoring
- ~ Solving Systems of Equations
- ~ Quadratic Functions

What is expected of me in class?

*Respect Others, Respect Myself.

*I am expected to use my class time wisely. I will not line up at the door or waste my work time.

*When Mrs. Merkwan is at the board helping us learn via notes and examples, I will also have my notebook out and take notes of necessary information. Mrs. Merkwan lets us use notes on tests and quizzes so this is very helpful in the end.

*I will use my computer appropriately. If I don't, I can lose my computer privileges and I can be written up.

*I will come to class prepared with the necessary materials and mindset. If I'm not prepared I will need to use a pass to get the necessary materials or I may need to stay after school to make up for lost class time.

*Phones will be put away in the classroom unless I have been given permission due to a certain circumstance or situation. On test and quiz days all phones and smart watches must be turned in and powered off.

What should I already know?

I should have a basic understanding of all math classes I've taken up to this point. Math builds on itself and every layer is equally important. Mrs. Merkwan doesn't expect me to remember everything I've ever learned in my math classes, but here are some key points I need to have some confidence with:

- ~ Operations (add, subtract, multiply, divide)
- ~ Recognizing patterns and relationships
- ~ Fractions, Decimals and Percents
- ~ Recognizing key words and points of given information

If I struggle with any of these concepts, I will always ask for help throughout the school year!

What if I need help?

Before School : Mrs. Merkwan is here everyday by at least 8:00am. If I want to come in before that, I will email her and arrange an earlier time. She can be here early if I take the time to commit.

After School : She is available after school until at least 4:00pm unless it's track training season. If I need help during track season, I will email and arrange a meeting if before school doesn't work.

Before Tests/Quizzes : Mrs. Merkwan will hold before and/or after school study sessions before most tests and quizzes. She will email out via k12 email and post on our website.

In Class : If I don't know I will always ASK! If I'm uncomfortable asking in front of everyone, I will email Mrs. Merkwan and she can help me that way too. Asking for help is a sign of STRENGTH, not weakness.

At Home/E-Learning: If I need help and we are doing an e-learning lesson, I will email Mrs. Merkwan to meet with her via a zoom session, or she can send me instructional videos or notes answering my questions that are posted in her Google Drive folders.

Materials

Pencil (to show my work)
Scientific Calculator (graphic calc not necessary)
Paper (extra scratch paper is available)
LapTop and Charger (will be needed daily)
Headphones (for watching assignment videos)

What if I miss class?

If I miss class it is my responsibility to make up my work. I will talk to Mrs. Merkwan if I need help with the lesson I missed. I will look on our website so that I know what I missed or will be missing. If I'm not responsible enough to do this outside of school, I will stay after school until I have made up the time I missed.

If I miss class for a school activity, I will have my makeup slip signed and/or have a conversation with Mrs. Merkwan BEFORE the day of the activity. By being in a school activity I know the schedule in advance and I will do my work, or make arrangements with her ahead of time regarding lessons before she signs my makeup slip, when necessary.

If I miss class for an illness I have two class periods to get my work done that was missed. If it's going to take longer than this, I will let Mrs. Merkwan know so we can make other arrangements.

Contact Mrs. Merkwan

Email : janel.merkwan@k12.sd.us

Classroom Hours : 8:00am - 4:00pm

Planning:

3rd Period : Mrs. Merkwan will respond to emails & update grades during this time.

School Phone : 605-528-6236

Website :

<https://janelmerkwan.wixsite.com/westcentral>

Policies

Passes : If I need to leave the room at anytime I must sign out with Mrs. Merkwan.

Late Work : I redo my homework over and over again up until the day of the quiz or test to earn points back if they were not completed on time, or to practice the skills. Assignments will be put in the grade book regularly, but they won't be final until the day of the test. If I am more than one class period late with my assignments, my grade may be docked. Once we have taken the test, I can no longer redo or go back and get credit for any homework from that chapter or standard. If I redo or finish an assignment after Mrs. Merkwan has graded it and posted it online in Infinite Campus, I will email her and let her know that I have reworked that assignment and that I would like my grad updated.

Re-Takes : Mrs. Merkwan does not allow any retakes or redo's on tests or quizzes unless there are extenuating circumstances. She allows an unlimited amount of attempts on homework and daily assignments, so I can redo those assignments and daily work as many times as I need. Since the test questions come from the homework that I can re-work for practice and to prepare for the exams, if I prepare and study, there is no need for any retakes on tests and quizzes. Mrs. Merkwan can log in to the online sources to check and see when I worked or if I went back in and practiced problems, and see the amount of time spent on the online assessments.

Extra Credit : Mrs. Merkwan gives a range of opportunities for Extra Credit throughout the year and chapter that I can use. She does not give Extra Credit "after the fact". If fail the test, I cannot go back and do the Extra Credit from earlier. Once the test has been taken that is it for that chapter.

How will my grade be determined?

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| ● Tests | ● Quarter A |
| ● Homework | ● Quarter B |
| ● Quizzes | ● Semester Test |

