



# Sierra Madre Middle School

MATH 8  
2019-2020

Pasadena Unified School District • Sierra Madre MS • 160 North Cañon Avenue, Sierra Madre, California 91024

## Contact Information

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## Mission Statement

Sierra Madre Middle School is committed to providing a program which promotes academic, physical, emotional, and social growth for all our students within a safe and secure environment. Our goal is that these endeavors will foster high student academic achievement and creative thinking among our students and staff, to work together in harmony with parents and the community for the good of all.

## Course Objectives

The Pasadena Unified School District has general goals and a Mission Statement for all schools. The following are the specific goals for classroom E207.

1. The development of virtues such as honesty, integrity, responsibility, trust, and a commitment towards moral convictions.
2. The instruction in a discipline which is characterized by both breadth and depth.
3. An Integrated curriculum with both academic and technical material which will enhance the student's opportunities to pursue additional education and provide a foundation for lifelong learning and adaptability to change.
4. The promotion of personal, social and emotional growth.

## Course Description for Math 8

In Math 8, instructional time will focus on five critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation; (2) solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (3) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (4) analyzing two-dimensional and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence; (5) understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

## Required Text and Materials for Math 8

The Text that will be given to the student is consumable. The student *Instruction* Book provides rigorous instruction on the Common Core Math Standards and develops mathematical reasoning through lessons that use real-world problem solving as instruction. It embeds Standards for Mathematical Practice to help students develop habits of mind. The student *Practice and Problem Solving* book will reinforce the concepts and skills from the student instruction book and encourage students to explain their thinking with increasingly difficult problems that require greater levels of higher-order thinking. It is flexible enough to be used for independent practice at home.

## Grading Criteria for Math 8

All students will have their grades calculated by a combination of five major categories. The categories and their weights are as follows:

- Homework (Practice & Problem Solving) 5%
- iReady Lessons 10%
- Unit Performance Task 5%
- Quizzes 25%
- Module Assessments 35%
- Midterm and Final Examinations 20%

The number of homework assignments given will depend on the number of topics covered for that semester. All of the assignments have due dates and will be evaluated. In addition, all graded assignments will receive points for *neatness* as well as content. Attendance, participation, and effort will be graded subjectively in order to help the students' grade potentially round up to the next letter grade. Therefore, it is of vital importance that students work diligently throughout the school year so that they are prepared for class discussion and summative assignments.

## Conclusion

I am always willing to provide help for students. If students ask for help, I will find time to help them. Typically, the best time to ask for help is immediately after school, but I cannot always assure that I will be available. It is important for your child to spend time everyday, Monday–Thursday and sometimes Friday, reinforcing skills and concepts. Please help your child to develop responsible study habits.

The approaches I use in my teaching methods are based on educational research and personal experience. For example, there are no extra assignments available in my class. I believe we do a disservice to students when we allow them to pass through with less than their best.

Should you have any questions about the class, please call or e-mail to set up an appointment to meet with me. Please avoid “drop-in” conferences as this makes it very difficult to prepare and do a thorough job of discussing your concerns.

I am looking forward to an excellent school year. I will do my best to keep this group of students challenged. I look forward to working with you and with them to make this an outstanding year.

Yours truly,



Daniel M. Martinez