

# Math 8/7 Syllabus Spring Semester

## Mr. Harsh

Welcome to Math 87. I look forward to a very successful spring semester in math. Our **goals** for this semester include the following.

1. Understand new math **concepts**.
2. Increase our competency in math **skills**.
3. Solve varied types of **word problems** and **real life** problems.
4. Work **hand-in-hand** to increase the ways we learn.

Our textbook is **Course 2** by John Saxon Publishers. The Saxon series math study is explained in the preface of the book. If you have never used a Saxon textbook be sure to read the preface.

### Topics covered by Saxon Math 8/7 include:

measurement	transformation of formulas
estimation	literal equations
real-world connections	algebraic terms
word-problems	irrational numbers
rate	factoring algebraic expressions
powers and roots	substitution
geometric proofs	graphing linear equations and
scientific notation	inequalities
graphing functions	geometric construction
quantitative comparisons	scale factor and indirect measure
balancing equations	similar and congruent figures
	data collection, display, and analysis
	probability and statistics

### Classroom Rules:

1. Respect your classmates and the teacher.
2. Follow directions the first time given.
3. Keep your hands, feet, objects and negative comments to yourself.
4. Bring your textbook, binder, agenda, red pen/pencil and lead pencil every day.

If you follow these rules we will achieve an environment where:

- **Christ is exalted, stress is minimized, and learning is maximized**

If you do not follow these expectations then I will use the following consequences to aid you in changing your behavior.

1st offense:	Warning
2nd offense:	Conference after class
3rd offense:	2 days of Lunchroom clean-up
4th offense:	40-minute detention
5th offense:	Disciplinary referral
<b>Severe:</b>	<b>Immediate</b> referral to principal

**Rewards:**

Verbal praise, written praise, and positive communication with parents

Consequences will accumulate weekly. So if a student disregards the directions given to him three times in a week, he will receive a warning, stay after class one minute, and have lunchroom duty for 2 days. I do not expect to have many problems since students are aware of the rules and consequences.

**Homework Policy:**

The key to learning throughout the year in Math 87 will be working every problem each night. At first glance this may seem to be a lot of homework every night, but there will be time in the class period to complete a third of the set or more. I encourage each student to choose the difficult problems to complete first, while they can get help from their classmates or from me; easier problems can then be left for home. Students are encouraged to help each other in understanding the problems, but copying homework is dishonest and not allowed. Homework is essential because it reinforces skills learned in class. Each homework assignment is worth 10 points. My homework policy is as follows:

- 1. All homework must be completed in pencil.**
- 2. Solutions must be shown.**
- 3. Homework is expected to be completed on time; meaning the beginning of the class period. Half credit is given for late assignments.**
- 4. Make-up work will be taken for full credit only for excused absences.**

**Ten points for the following:**

All problems complete with work shown  
Name and set number on the paper  
Work done in pencil  
Score written at top of page  
Score recorded on Homework Log

**One point deducted for each:**

No name on your paper  
Work done in ink  
No work shown on 5 problems  
Every 2 problems not attempted  
Work not checked

**Testing:**

There will be a test every week. Each test will be comprehensive, almost like a “mini-final”. Since the lessons are comprehensive as well, we have constant review as we add each new operation. Students will also be taking quizzes on vocabulary from periodically. Missed tests will be given during test make-up on Thursdays. No makeup tests will be given during class. Please use **pencil** on your tests also.

**Projects:**

Spring semester each student will complete several mini-projects. Detailed information will be sent home and available online with regard to specifics at a later date. The first project will be completed in January on scale drawings.

## Supplies:

The following supplies are needed every day:

- Three-ring binder/notebook with dividers
- Red pencil/pen/marker/crayon/etc. for checking homework
- **Pencils**

We will be using special paper for our daily homework. This will be given out each day as needed. During the course we will keep a notebook. The notebook will contain notes, vocabulary, and tests and quizzes. The purpose of the notebook is to organize your work, have a ready review for each test, and to keep all study aides easily accessible.

## Notebook Procedures:

Your binder should have 3 sections separated by labeled dividers:

### Notes / Handouts / Homework Log

Each page should have the following heading:

Date	Topic	Lesson number/Assignment
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Example:

<i>8/13/07</i>	<i>Numeration System</i>	<i>LN 1/ PS 1</i>
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Notes will be taken from the dry erase board, overhead or using the projector. All notes written on the board should be written in your notes unless otherwise noted. After we finish the notes, practice problems will be worked. These should be worked in your notes, with the proper steps shown. If any questions arise later, you can look back to your examples and practice problems. You will also keep a homework log in this section to update after each homework set. I would keep it at the beginning of this section for easy access.

### Vocabulary Examples

Each student will be required to keep a Vocabulary section during the first semester. I firmly believe that math is reading and combining our writing skills and language with math skills. This will enhance learning in math. Vocabulary words should be numbered with an example or picture. Vocabulary quizzes will be given periodically.

Example:

1. digit: 0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9
2. sum:  $2+5=\underline{7}$

### Tests / Test Log

In this section, you will keep all tests during the semester. You will punch holes in these and put them in your notebook. Keep these in order. They will be worth help in studying for future tests. You will also keep your test log in this section and update it after each test.

## Grades:

The grade for this course will be determined by the following. It may change somewhat during the semester according to time and student needs. These are of course only approximations of the actual grading.

Assignment Category	Points	Percentage of Semester Grade
Tests	780	41 %
Homework	640	33 %
Power Up Tests	130	7 %
Projects	180	9 %
Spring Exam	200	10 %

## Help Sessions:

I am looking forward to a successful year for each student. I feel confident that each student can succeed by consistently completing homework assignments and asking questions. If extra help is needed, I will be available for a study session every **Friday morning from 7:30 to 8:00 AM**. Students will be notified of a change in the day of the help session when needed. Students are expected to bring questions, old tests or homework problems. Any student who receives **less than a C** on a test is **required** to be at the next help session.

## Honor Code:

If God reigns in our lives, we will honor Him in our relationships with others. The GACS Honor Code represents the goal of relationships in my class as well as the school. I expect all students to abide by the Honor Code as stated below. Consequences of breaking the code are found in the Parent-Student Handbook.

**In order to maintain honor in our relationships, we all agree to do what is right, to speak the truth, and to strive for integrity in all that we do. Therefore, we will not be involved in lying, cheating, or stealing. If we do vary from this path of honor, we will accept the correction from others and the established consequences of this school. Honor is a goal that we seek to attain.**

## Summary:

If we work together, I know that our year will be a success. Please feel free to communicate with me anytime. I covet your prayers and will be praying for you as well.

I appreciate your support so much.

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