

Welcome to

Math Heaven

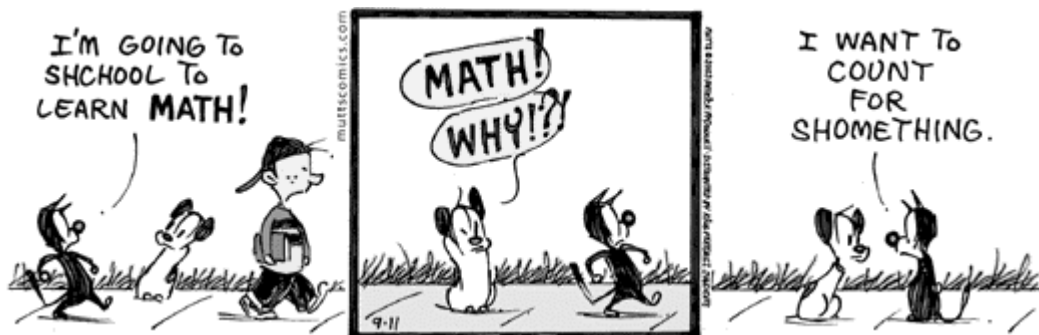
Hold on tight to your dream,
When you see the shadows falling,
When you hear that cold wind calling,
Hold on tight to your dream.

– Electric Light Orchestra

Mathematics and Pre-Algebra

Grades 7 & 8 | Bedford Middle School | Mrs. Cobb

www.MrsCobbMath.com



🌈 Classroom Rules 🌈

The following are seven classroom rules:

1. **Follow all school and handbook rules.**
Check your agenda for a list of school rules.
2. **Be in your seat and ready to begin class as soon as the bell rings.**
We don't have much time, so it's necessary to maximize it.
3. **Bring all necessary materials with you to class.**
Your materials include:
 - ❑ your **textbook**.
 - ❑ your math **folder**.
 - ❑ **paper**.
 - ❑ your **agenda** on Mondays.
 - ❑ two or more sharpened **pencils** (not pens), or two or more mechanical pencils with plenty of lead. (I suggest carrying a small pencil pouch.)
 - ❑ a **book to read or work from other classes** to complete in the event you finish your math practice in class.
 - ❑ a **calculator**. A scientific calculator is best, but you can get a simple four-function calculator inexpensively at Wal-Mart, CVS, the Dollar Store, etc.
4. **Follow all directions the first time they are given.**
It saves time, and keeps you safe.
5. **Keep comments relevant to the task.**
You can tell me about the cool stuff in your life during passing period, though.
6. **Be respectful of those around you by keeping your hands, feet, and objects to yourself.**
Being disrespectful not only keeps you from learning, it also distracts and annoys others.
7. **Speak at appropriate times using appropriate voices.**
Sometimes it's OK to talk; sometimes it's not. You can usually tell what the appropriate action is, but ask if you're not sure.



🍰 Classroom Procedures 🍰



Please use only pencils in math class. When working a math problem, it is often necessary to erase and correct mistakes. Using any kind of pen (even erasable), can make a mess on your paper, so I request that you use pencils only for math.



Please keep the area around your seat neat. By keeping your materials under your desk and not on the floor or in the aisle, other students and I will not be in danger of tripping over your things. Also, please check around your desk before leaving the classroom to make sure the area is neat when you leave.



Please remain in your seat during instructional time. When a student gets up to sharpen a pencil or throw away trash during instructional time, it can be distracting. You may leave your seat without permission during *working time* to take care of pencils and trash, or to ask questions.



Please use your work time wisely. Once you have finished the assignment, you may read a book, do a puzzle, or work on assignments from another class.



Anytime you leave the room at your own request, you must have a pass. There are passes on my desk. Just ask for permission first, please.



💖 Taking Notes 💖

You will take notes frequently. If you are absent, you should get a copy of the notes from me or a responsible peer. Note taking is simple: **neatly write everything I write on the board or projector**, unless I specifically tell you not to do so. These notes will become part of your math folder and can be a wonderful resource. You will usually be able to find an example of a tough problem in your notes. I will allow you to use notes on quizzes and on most tests.

Math Folder

Your folder should be well-organized. **Organization is often the key to understanding and enjoying math!** You may organize your math folder any way you choose. If you are unsure how to organize your folder, here is a **suggested** procedure.

- ❑ In the **left pocket** of your folder, keep **exit tickets**. You might even keep a paper clip on the pocket to help keep them secure.
- ❑ In the **center binder** of your folder, keep both your **grade sheet** and the **notes** that we take in class. The grade sheet should be in front, followed by your notes in chronological order, with the most recent notes in the back. You may keep extra blank sheets of paper behind your notes.
- ❑ In the **right pocket** of your folder, keep your **assignments**.

By keeping organized, you will help yourself learn new concepts and ideas. You will be less frustrated, and your study skills (and grades!), will improve. After every chapter test, you may empty your folder of everything except your grade sheet. **I recommend keeping an "old chapters" folder so your main folder doesn't get cluttered.**

Assignments

- ❑ Every Monday, I will list the entire week's topics and accompanying assignments on the board. You are responsible for copying assignments from the board into your agenda.
- ❑ You can also find assignments at www.MrsCobbMath.com. Just click on Assignments, the appropriate class, and the appropriate week. There will be links to handouts there, as well.
- ❑ If you are ever absent, we will work out an assignment submission schedule.
- ❑ Sometimes, I'll give you a quick assignment to complete before you leave the classroom. These are called **exit tickets**. It's a great way for you to show me what you understand and on what you need help.
- ❑ You must **show all steps**. Showing answers only doesn't allow me to follow your thought process. **Showing all steps means copying the problem and writing down the work you did, even what you punched into the calculator.** I care about your work as much as I do the answer.

Quizzes

- ❑ I will periodically give quizzes to help you check your understanding of subject matter. Quizzes are always announced in advance, and you will be allowed to use notes.

🌈 Tests 🌈

- ❑ Tests come at the end of chapters and semesters. They are worth more points than quizzes. Because every test is different, different resources will be allowed for different tests. Sometimes notes may be used, sometimes calculators may be used, and sometimes, only pencils may be used.
- ❑ If you are unhappy with a test grade, you may **retake** a test after having completed a **Retake Ticket**, which will be provided when your test is returned. I will allow you to take a new test similar to the original test. Your final test grade will be the **second** grade, not the better grade.

🍀 How To Prepare For A Test 🍀

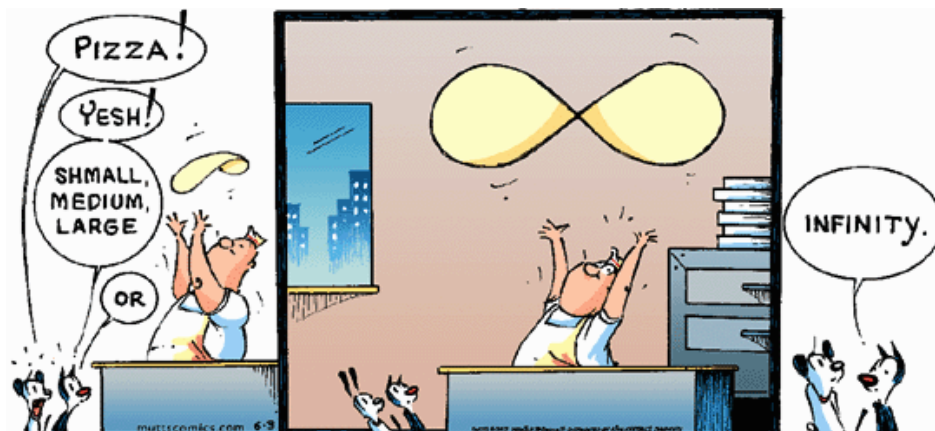
Practice! Work odd-numbered problems from your text book, and then check your answer with the correct answer in the back of the book. Did you get the correct answer? Did you show all the steps? If you did not work the problem correctly, check your notes and corrected assignments to see if you can find where you went wrong. If a concept comes easily to you, move on to another concept to work on correcting your weaknesses.

Why do you think athletes, musicians, and actors and actresses practice? To get better, of course! Apply that same concept to your academic courses in order to be successful. If you **prepare** to do the job, you will be successful!

Message me if you need help. My email is cobbj@nlcs.k12.in.us, my Twitter is [@JoCobb](https://twitter.com/JoCobb), and my Instagram is [@RunnerJoCobb](https://www.instagram.com/RunnerJoCobb).

🔒 Extra Credit 🔒

Though extra credit opportunities will not be given on an individual basis, I may offer small extra credit assignments to all students. Additionally, there will be extra credit questions offered on most quizzes and tests.



🏆 Figuring Your Grade 🏆

Your grade is based on total points earned on assignments, quizzes, and tests. Use your grade sheet (which will be provided in class), to keep a running total of your points. The example below shows how to keep your grade sheet up to date.

#	Assignment	Points Earned	Points Available	Percent
01	1-1	+5	+5	100%
02	1-2	+4	+5	
New Total:		= 9	= 10	90%
03	1-3	+5	+5	
New Total:		= 14	= 15	93%
04	Quiz 1	21	25	
New Total:		$(35 \div 40) \times 100 \approx 88\%$		
05	1-4	5	5	
New Total:		$(40 \div 45) \times 100 \approx 89\%$		
06	1-5	0	5	
New Total:		40	50	80%
07	Notebook Quiz	25	25	
New Total:		65	75	87%
08	Ch. 1 Test	43	50	
New Total:		108	125	86%

- ✓ Enter an assignment's grade as soon as you receive it. I will remind you to do so, and I'll help you remember on which line each assignment belongs.
- ✓ To find your total points, add a new score to a previous total, as shown on Lines 1, 2, and 3 in the example to the left.
- ✓ To find your percentage, divide your points earned by the number of points available. Then, multiply by 100. Round your answer to the nearest percent. This action is shown below Lines 4 and 5 to the left. (This procedure is also written at the top of your grade sheet to help you remember how to find your percentage.)

🌸 Grading Scale 🌸

97↑ = A+	87-89 = B+	77-79 = C+	67-69 = D+	
93-96 = A	83-86 = B	73-76 = C	63-66 = D	59↓ = F
90-92 = A-	80-82 = B-	70-72 = C-	60-62 = D-	



♥ Parent Letter ♥

Dear Parents and Guardians:

My name is JoAnna Cobb, and I will be teaching your child's seventh grade Math or Pre-Algebra class this year. Because I will be spending part of every day with your child, I thought you would like to know a little bit about myself, both personally and professionally.

I was a student in North Lawrence Community Schools for 13 years. After that, I received my Bachelor's in Education from Indiana University. Additionally, I earned my Masters in Education from Olivet Nazarene University. This is my 14th year teaching at Bedford Middle School. In my free time, I enjoy running, singing, quilting, geocaching, and reading.

My mission as a teacher is to fully dedicate myself to instilling in your child a lifelong love of learning. With the power of self-motivation coupled with curiosity, your child can reach his or her full potential and learn to achieve his or her dreams. The realization of this goal will not only cause your child to believe in himself or herself, but it will also give your child the tools he or she needs in order to be a content, productive citizen of the world.

As a future productive citizen of the world, your child will not only be learning Math from me; he or she will also be learning how to interact with adults and peers. Your child will receive full respect and courtesy from me at all times, and in return, I expect the same respect and courtesy from your child.

I am looking forward to an exciting and productive year, and I hope your child is excited as well. Please contact me with any questions or comments at any time at the school by telephone (279-9781) or through email (cobbj@nlcs.k12.in.us). Also, please visit www.MrsCobbMath.com, our classroom web site, to learn about your child's math assignments and other items of interest. I'll also be in touch with you regarding a text service I use to send reminders. Your active attention to your child's education is vital because you are the most influential person in his or her life. Thank you for your involvement and support.

Sincerely,
JoAnna Cobb