To my Parents and Students,

I am excited to be part of your education this year at KMS. I look forward to working with you to prepare for the 8th grade, the TAKS Test in April, and for future mathematical endeavors.

First, let me tell you about myself. I am an instructor from the University of Texas at Austin and I am guest teaching at Kealing for the 2005-2006 school year. I am originally from Tuskegee, Alabama but graduated from The University of Texas at Austin. I have two children in the public school system (Kindergarten and 2nd grade) and have been married for eleven years. My teaching experience includes Johnston High School in AISD, Austin Community College, and I currently teach for The University of Texas at Austin for the Mathematics Department and with the UTeach Program. I am excited about this opportunity to work with your child!

Now, about math class! The most successful students are those who take responsibility for their own progress. Parents, please help your son or daughter grow in self-motivation and develop good study habits by checking in with your child daily to make sure that he/she is completing homework promptly, taking notes in class, working with a study partner regularly, and coming to school with the necessary tools each day.

If you need to reach me for any reason, please call or e-mail and leave your name, a day and evening telephone number, and a time that you can be reached. Translators are available to assist in our communications.

Your interest and support are extremely helpful. I look forward to working with you to have a successful experience in Mathematics that will contribute to a promising future. Thank you for your support. Now let’s do MATH!

Mrs. Pamela Powell

Grading Policy

Grades will be based on the following:

- 40% Masteries (Tests, quizzes, projects)
- 30% In-class work
- 20% Home work
- 10% Notebook checks, Journals, Warm-ups, SPAM

Vocabulary

Every student is responsible for creating and maintaining a glossary for the school year. Each entry in the glossary will include:

- The Math Word
- A picture, model, or example for clarification
- An alternative definition or synonym in student voice

We will dedicate a wall of the classroom (hereafter, “the Word Wall”) for displaying math vocabulary throughout the year.

Testing

All students in AISD are required to take Beginning of Year (BOY) and Middle of Year (MOY) benchmark tests. These tests are grade-level and are used to predict a student’s performance on the TAKS test in April 2006.

In addition, class time must be allotted for each student to complete an Individual TAKS Plan (ITP). The ITP was developed by AISD to encourage students to take ownership of their progress towards mastery of grade-level TAKS objectives, and to make students aware of weaknesses they carry over from the previous year.

Contact Information:

(512) 471-9889
or
ppowell@mail.utexas.edu
Ways to be active in your child's education

- Look at your child’s class work and homework EVERY night
- Ask your child to teach you something he/she learned
- Check over assignments before they are turned in
- Tutor your child on difficult concepts OR find a friend or family member to help
- Talk about the everyday math you encounter at home, in the car, while shopping, etc.
- Be positive about math and school
- Communicate with your student’s teachers and counselors
- Tell your child how much he/she matters to you; celebrate the successes together

Supplies Required Daily

- 1-inch (or larger) binder with pockets to be used for math class
- At least two #2 pencils
- Five Dividers
- Loose-leaf notebook paper
- A folder with pockets for homework

Optional supplies: red pen or pencil, grid paper, small manual pencil sharpener (These will be available in the classroom for students’ use.)

Math binders will be organized as follows:

Section 1 : Warm-ups
Section 2 : In-Class work
Section 3 : Home work
Section 4 : Quizzes and Tests
Section 5 : Vocabulary

Student Expectations

CLASSROOM RULES
1. Follow directions immediately.
2. Sit in your seat unless you have permission to leave it.
3. Raise your hand and wait for permission to speak.
4. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
5. Bring required math materials to class.

NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES
1st : Warning
2nd : 2 min after class
3rd : 2 min after class, loss of seat
4th : 10 min detention after school and a phone call home

Severe clause: REFERRAL

POSITIVE CONSEQUENCES
Stamps - high daily grade, prizes
Positive notes, phone calls home
HORNET TOKENS
Classroom privileges
“Student of the Week/Month” Award

Missed & Late Work

It is the student's responsibility to get any missed work due to absences. Missed assignments will be accepted within 5 consecutive school days of an excused absence with no penalty.

Late work will be accepted within 5 school days of the due date; however, the maximum grade will be 80%. Additional points may be deducted for inaccuracies. After the five days, no credit will be awarded.

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