

HONORS GEOMETRY 2011-2012



Dear Student,

I hope you have found your freshman year challenging and rewarding. Emerson once said, "Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow." With these words in mind, I officially want to welcome you back to Shanahan and Geometry. I hope you are up to the challenge!

The intent of this paper is two-fold:

- ⇒ familiarize you with classroom procedures and responsibilities, and
- ⇒ provide some hints for studying that might prove helpful.

Some things in class are negotiable. These are **not**.

1) MATERIALS:

The following materials will be needed for class. It is expected that they be ***brought*** and ***not*** each day. A point will be deducted from your cumulative points each time you come to class unprepared.

- ✓ Textbook – **Houghton Mifflin Geometry** (covered at all times)
- ✓ **Separate** binder for subject - for all study guides, notes, homework and tests
- ✓ College ruled loose-leaf and dividers (work on spiral bound paper will not be accepted)
- ✓ Red pen - to be used for corrections (no pencil may be in hand during corrections)
- ✓ **Sharpened** pencils or mechanical pencil (all work)
- ✓ Scientific calculator- No graphing calculator may be used on tests or semester exams.
- ✓ Highlighter (yellow only)
- ✓ Protractor
- ✓ Compass

2) REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance In Regular Meetings Of Class.

Numerous absences often lead to grade disappointment. The responsibility for making up work and obtaining notes lies entirely with you.

- ✓ *You assume the burden of getting and completing all assignments prior to your return and are expected to be able to resume participation on the current topic the day of your return.*
- ✓ *In most cases, make-up tests are to be taken before school or during your lunch period (bring a bagged lunch) the day of your return. Please email me of your intent and to confirm.*
- ✓ *Please note that an absence preceding a test will not excuse you from a scheduled test given on the day of your return.*

Teacher Absence.

In the event of my absence, a written assignment from the Study Guide or your textbook will be given. It may or may not be collected at the end of class but will ***ALWAYS BE CHECKED***. Points will be issued.

Completion Of Homework As Assigned.

Homework is practice and practice is an integral part of any learning process. It identifies areas of weakness and constantly strengthens skills you are accumulating. As you will discover, homework assignments are lengthy and

will require a great deal of concentration, effort and patience. You are urged to make good use of all available time afforded you (class, homeroom, study, lunch).

Preparation of Assigned Study Guide

Preparation of the Study Guide is integral to the presentation of a lesson. It asks that you familiarize yourself with the objectives of the lesson, exercise and exhaust your abilities, and allows you to identify difficulties and prepare questions in advance of the lesson.

1. Read your Study Guide thoroughly, highlighting important definitions, theorems, etc. Use your text to supplement your Study Guide if needed.
2. Jot down any question(s) you might have relevant to your reading or specific to a problem assigned in the space provided on the Study Guide.
3. All problems are to be attempted and all answers highlighted in yellow.
4. When the lesson is presented and the Study Guide is in review, only a red pen may be in hand for corrections or additional notes.

Preparation of Textbook Assignment.

An assignment from your text is the final stage of a lesson. If you are experiencing a great deal of difficulty at this point, it is a clear signal that extra help is warranted.

1. All homework is to be done neatly, on loose-leaf and in pencil.
2. All problems, questions, figure are to be numbered and copied from the text.
3. **All** problems are to be **attempted** with **evidence of work**.
It's okay to have an incorrect answer but it is never acceptable to have no answer.
4. All answers are to be highlighted in yellow.
5. Corrections to homework are to be made in red. No pencil may be in hand.

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3) GRADE DETERMINANTS: Marksheet

(TOTAL NO. OF POINTS RECEIVED ON TESTS, PRACTICE, ETC.) + (BONUS PROBLEMS) - (UNPREPARED)
(TOTAL NO. OF POINTS POSSIBLE)

- ⇒ **Section and Chapter Tests**: All Section and Chapter tests are announced.
- ⇒ **Projects/worksheets**: On occasion a practice worksheets, individual or group, may be given. Point value is contingent upon the complexity and intricacies of the assignment.

Grades will not be curved and extra credit will not be given. Bonus points may be offered throughout the report period.

4) GRADE CONNECT

Kindly make sure your email is correct. Should you need to reach me, email me by 9 pm.

Many of the handouts, assignments, study guides, etc. will be made available only through Grade Connect and will require the use of your printer. Please **DO NOT** tell me the internet was down or your printer is broken. Should that be the case, all printouts can be accessed via the library.



5) **CONDUCT/GENERAL CLASSROOM POLICY:**

- ✓ Please be aware of school policy regarding lateness (you must be seated in your seat by the second bell), gum chewing, eating in the classroom, dress code, etc. **School policy is also class policy.**
- ✓ Anything not related to this class (pictures, books, notes, cosmetics, etc.) will be confiscated and returned at my discretion. A good rule of thumb, if it important to you and you want to keep it, do not have it out in class.
- ✓ Be respectful of everyone in the room.
- ✓ This class is **GEOMETRY**. You are expected to devote the entire class period **to** geometry. If you are given the opportunity to begin homework, you are to do so. There is no free time unless specified by me. **TIME YOU WASTE IS TIME THAT YOU WILL MAKE UP.**
- ✓ Please get your proper rest before class. You are to be sitting up in your desk. I view anything otherwise as a sign of disrespect. If you are too ill to have your head up, you need to be at the nurse's office.
- ✓ On occasion, you will be asked to work in a team. "Cooperative learning" and working together demands skills essential in human progress. Since the success or failure of the team will be shared by all members of the group, you have a responsibility to your team to remain on task and contribute as much as you can to the group goal.
- ✓ Honesty and trust are very strong in my belief system. Cheating will result in a zero. No discussion.

6) **EXTRA HELP:**

Extra help will be available to anyone who finds study groups and normal classroom questioning insufficient means for understanding the material. It is not intended to provide you with a quick answer for something that, given time, energy, and sometimes considerable thought, you are capable of doing for yourself. A record will be kept of all students who have come for extra help. I am in school by 7:15. **Please obtain the appropriate morning pass.** NHS is also available for tutoring.

I wish you a good and successful year. Believe in yourself and your ability. One final thought:

"Do not wish to be anything but what you are, and try to be that perfectly."

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

God Bless,
Mrs. Starlet Vitikacs
E-mail: svitikacs@shanahan.org

Parent Signature _____

Student Signature _____

THIS LETTER IS TO BE PRINTED , SIGNED AND KEPT IN YOUR BINDER.