

AMHERST - PELHAM *Regional* SCHOOL DISTRICT
 AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

Amherst Regional Middle School
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Patty Bode, Interim Principal

The ARMS Integrated Math 2 Portfolio Group

DESCRIPTION

The ARMS Integrated Math 2 Portfolio Group takes place after school, but it is not a club. The group functions as a fast-paced **three semester course** with homework, classwork, and tests. This course is designed to cover the content of honors 9th grade math. Students should participate if they are **dedicated to accelerating to take Calculus in 11th grade instead of waiting until 12th grade**. We also have a math club for students who enjoy doing challenging math, and we encourage them to consider the Mathcounts club. Please see their math teacher for details regarding Mathcounts club.

Rationale

The ARMS Integrated Math 2 Portfolio Group is designed specifically to meet the needs of a 7th grade student who is intending to complete Calculus at ARHS before 12th grade. **It is not necessary to participate in this group to take Calculus in 12th Grade at ARHS. Taking Calculus in 12th grade is part of the regular sequence of Honors courses at ARHS.**

PATH OF STUDY

Students will begin the *ARMS Integrated Math 2 Portfolio Group* as 7th graders and continue the work as 8th graders. The 7th grade portion starts during second semester of 7th grade, and then all year during 8th grade. Students who successfully complete the portfolio during 7th and 8th grades have the opportunity to take the 10th grade math class as 9th graders at ARHS. Any 7th grade student can join the group; however, completion of the portfolio is contingent on maintaining both a rapid pace of learning and meeting high assessment criteria.

It is important to note that the Integrated Math 2 Portfolio course is equivalent to one year of a high school math course and utilizes self-study materials. We would like to emphasize that this course is a unique opportunity here within our Amherst Regional Public Schools. For example, in the US, approx 15% of students take calculus in high school at any grade level. This data points out that it is very unusual for students to enroll in Calculus prior to 12th grade. This being said, we realize that this course will not be appealing to everybody, yet our hope is that it meet the needs and interests of students who are in specific pursuit of advanced work within their overall experience in the math department.

ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS

Sessions for 7th graders will begin on **Tuesday, January 31, 2017**. The first two weeks will serve as a trial period for interested students to experience the work. It is expected that students will attend a minimum of one of the after school sessions each week.

STRUCTURE OF THE PORTFOLIO GROUP

Students who participate in the portfolio group are expected to:

- Work with the course instructor on a weekly basis to complete classwork and assessments
- Attend one or both of the after school sessions, Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 2:30 pm to 3:45 pm for the second half of 7th grade and all of 8th grade
- Complete assignments and assessments with at least 85% achievement
- Demonstrate mastery of content independently

The portfolio instructor will communicate regularly with students and parents to facilitate students working at the appropriate pace to complete the portfolio. The content of the course will be split over the three semesters.

CHECKPOINT REQUIREMENTS and COMPLETION EXPECTATIONS

Students are required to maintain at least an 85% at each of the three checkpoints described above. An overall average is not calculated.

If a student does not have at least an 85% average at the end of 7th grade and/or at the halfway point of 8th grade, the portfolio will be considered unsatisfactory and the student will not have the opportunity to complete the remaining work. If a student maintains an average at or above 85% for the first two checkpoints, but has an average between 70 and 84 at the 3rd checkpoint, the student can retake the Checkpoint Exam to earn an 85% or higher, or the student's portfolio will be considered unsatisfactory.

Students must also maintain a B+ or higher in their 7th grade math flex and 8th grade Algebra plus classes to continue with the portfolio group.

FORMATIVE NOTIFICATION OF ACHIEVEMENT

Portfolio grades will be reported three times:

1. End of 7th grade
2. Prior to Winter break of 8th grade
3. End of 8th grade

Grades will be calculated as follows:

- Checkpoint Exam – 15%
- Tests/Quizzes/ Performance tasks – 65%
- Assignments – 20%

Tests

- Tests will be completed at school, during Advisory or with the portfolio teacher after school. The instructor will work with the student and the student's Math 7 Flex/Algebra 8+ teacher to find a suitable time that does not conflict with other after school activities.
- Students who do not score an 85% on a test may complete corrections and earn up to 25% of their score back. Students will complete a form detailing their corrections.

Quizzes

- Students will take a quiz halfway through each chapter.
- Quizzes will be completed at school, during Advisory or with the portfolio teacher after school.
- Quizzes cannot be corrected or retaken.

Assignments

- Students are expected to:
 - Complete assignments on time.
 - Revise errors.
 - Provide clear and complete explanations.

7TH GRADE NOTIFICATION

Within the first six weeks of seventh grade, students participating in Integrated Math 2 Portfolio, parents, and guardians will be notified about the student's achievement, if the student is not meeting course expectations.

At any point during the semester, if a 7th grade student is not meeting course expectations with the content, attendance, or management of achievement in **BOTH** their Math 7 Flex and their Integrated Math 2 Portfolio course, they will be recommended to withdraw from the portfolio course to focus on Math 7 Flex. Again, students are required to maintain at least an 85% at each of the three checkpoints described above. An overall average is not calculated. Students must also maintain a B+ or higher in their math flex class to continue with the portfolio group.

8TH GRADE NOTIFICATION

At any point during the semester, if an 8th grader is not meeting course expectations with the content, attendance, or management of achievement in **BOTH** their Algebra 8+ and their Integrated Math 2 Portfolio course, they will be withdrawn from the portfolio course to focus on Algebra 8+. Again, students are required to maintain at least an 85% at each of the three checkpoints described above. An overall average is not calculated. Students must also maintain a B+ or higher in their Algebra plus class to continue with the portfolio group.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Students will receive a certificate of completion of the portfolio course.

The portfolio group will be overseen by the ARMS and the ARHS Math Departments.

The ARMS Integrated Math 2 Portfolio Group

- I am interested in participating in the Integrated Math 2 Portfolio course.
- I understand that the first meeting is Tuesday, January 31, 2017 from 2:30 to 3:45 OR Thursday, February 2, 2017 from 2:30 to 3:45.

Student Name: _____

Student ARPS Email Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian preferred phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____

Student's Math Teacher: _____

****Please return this page only to your Math Teacher, or Ms. Thibodeau.****