



WILLIAMSBURG HIGH SCHOOL FOR ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

Course Name: Geometry (MGS21/MGS22)

Teacher: Ms. Terraferma Room: 213

Email: terraferma@whsad.org

Dear Families:

Welcome! **Geometry** is the second course in the three-year high school mathematics sequence. Throughout this course students will be asked to act as mathematicians. They will be expected to make connections between verbal, numerical, algebraic, and geometric representations. Emphasis will be placed on making conjectures (rules) about geometric situations and developing both formal and informal proofs. Students are expected to incorporate a variety of problem solving strategies, utilize formulas, question their findings and justify their conclusions. Some of the major topics that will be covered include congruence, similarity, transformations, logic and constructions. We will spend a large portion of our time examining the properties and relationships of triangles, quadrilaterals and circles. Students will use the traditional geometry tools such as a compass and straightedge as well as dynamic computer software. This course ends with New York State Regents exam on June 20, 2014.

Success in this class is based on three fundamental areas:

1. Attendance, Participation and Preparedness

Students are expected to be in class everyday, on time, ready to work with their own notebook, pen/pencil, and completed assignments. Students **must** contribute to class discussions, answer and ask questions and write their ideas down for others to read.

2. Responsibility for one's own learning

Students are expected to complete all assigned work in a timely manner. You should check my website (www.whsad.org/author/terraferma) regularly. If you having trouble with something or you're unable to complete the assigned work, let me know. Make time for extra help when needed. I expect everyone to work hard. Don't cheat yourself by copying other people. Don't insult yourself by taking a zero.

3. Respect for one another's ideas, opinions and class time.

Class meets for 50 minutes everyday so let's make every moment count! Help maintain a pleasurable learning atmosphere in our classroom. Students are expected to come to class on time, practice self-discipline, raise their hand when wanting to speak, and not talk over others. My room is neither a playground nor a basketball court.

Grades

Engrade allows both students and parents to view course grades throughout the marking period.

Students are expected to stay up to date. Students **will not** be allowed to make up all their assignments at the end of the marking period. Grades are based on the following percentages:

- Assessments: Exams & Quizzes 50%
- CCSS Writing Performance Tasks 20%
- Classwork/Investigations 20%
- Homework 10%

Assessments: Exams & Quizzes (50%)

Since this is a regents based course, full period exams will be given approximately every two weeks.

Dates will be announced and posted on the website. Students should not wait until the day before the exam to seek extra help. **If you are absent on the day of an exam or quiz, you must schedule a make up exam within 2 days of your return to school. Not taking an exam or cutting class on the day of exam means you EARNED a zero.**

CCSS Writing Performance Tasks (20%)

Performance Tasks or Projects will be an essential part of this course. They provide an opportunity for you to showcase your understanding, mathematical reasoning, and creative thinking. We will do many activities in class; however, some projects will need to be done outside of class time. Late projects will not receive full credit unless accompanied by parent or doctor's note.

Classwork/Investigations (20%)

Classwork consists of completing the Do Now, taking good notes and completing in class assignments. You will explore many of the key geometric concepts and relationships during our investigations (or labs). You will be asked to *write* about your predictions, results and conclusions. Studying is easier with an organized notebook. Your binder should contain detailed class notes with an aim and completed Do Now, key formulas, examples and glossary of important terms. Math is best learned through steady effort. With repeated practice students should be able to recognize patterns and use standard problem solving strategies. You should keep your old assessments and review them before the next exam.

Homework (10%)

Homework is an important part of the work we do together and your success in the class. Often homework will be a direct extension of an activity we did in class, preparation for the next day's lesson or to reinforce previously learned material. Homework will be graded based on accuracy, completion, presentation (neatness) and following directions properly. Homework is to help you, therefore DO NOT COPY from others! I won't collect every assignment but you will be asked to put work up on the board, so be prepared. Video notes will also be part of your homework grade. Links to the videos will be on my website (www.whsad.org/author/terraferma). If you do not have a computer access at home, students can arrange time to use WHSAD computer lab or the computer in my classroom. Late homework hinders both the student and the quality of our class time. Late homework will not receive full credit.

Code of Conduct

All rules in my classroom revolve around creating a caring and effective learning environment. There will be ZERO tolerance for any disrespect towards other students, Ms. Terraferma, other teachers and the classroom. Lateness creates a disruptive environment. Repetitive lateness will result in parental notification and a guidance referral. **No cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, hats, beads, etc.** The rules have been put in place by the NYC DOE and until they change we must follow them.

Materials

Students should have the following materials for class **everyday**:

- Three Hole Binder with Dividers
- Loose-leaf Paper
- Composition Notebook (for journaling)
- Pencil or Pen
- Ruler & Compass

Students are encouraged to have a calculator (scientific or graphing) for completely assignments more easily on their own and/or at home.

Contact Information

Students and parents are welcome to contact me anytime by emailing me at terraferma@whsad.org or by calling the school at 718-388-1260. I look forward to meeting you in person at the parent-teacher conferences on October 24th & 25th.

I'm looking forward to an exciting and rewarding school year. Please **review** the course guidelines with your child and **keep** it in a safe place, as you may want to refer to it throughout the year.

