

# Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy



## 2018 Summer Math Assignment



### Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Dear Students and Families,

To keep your math skills honed over the summer we ask families to devote some of their summer to doing math. All students are required to complete the assignment included in this packet: a writing prompt which provides students an opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings about math with their new math teacher. Students should treat this as their first homework assignment of the year. This assignment also serves as the first draft of an assignment students complete during the 1<sup>st</sup> marking period of 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Students should return the completed math packet to their math teacher by **Friday, August 31, 2018.**

In addition, families are encouraged to find other ways to focus on the use of math in their daily lives. Play family games involving math, provide opportunities to have students work on math activities on internet sites and involve students in computing discounts and sales tax when you do your back to school shopping. (A detailed list of suggestions is included in this packet.)

- ◆ **We expect that students have mastered the multiplication facts as well as operations with fractions and decimals previously.**
- ◆ **Students entering eighth grade should have a solid understanding of order of operations and percent.**

Remember, do some math all summer long!

Sincerely,

Sally A. Biggs  
Principal



Play games that involve math – the whole family can play!  
If you're playing a family game, have your student do the math necessary to determine the score.

Games that involve math either during play or in computing scores include Battleship, Cribbage, Equate, Math 24 Game, Quirkle, Scrabble, S'math and Yahtzee.

Games that involve logical reasoning and strategizing include Backgammon, Blokus, Chess, Dominoes, Gobblet, KenKen, Mancala, Mastermind and Othello.



This list is not exhaustive; ask at your local toy store for other suggestions.



While shopping have your student estimate the bill before the cashier finishes ringing up your order. If you are taking advantage of a sale, have your student use the advertised percentage to figure the discount or sale price. If you go out to eat at a restaurant, have your child figure out the tip.

If your household has access to the internet, please use the list of approved web sites below to help your student practice skills or find challenge problems to solve. If computer access is not available at home, we suggest utilizing your local library.

<http://www.aplusmath.com>

This site offers interactive flashcards, games, a homework helper, and help on advanced math problems.

<http://www.multiplication.com>

This site offers activities, games, and worksheets to help teach the multiplication facts.

<http://www.mathplayground.com/>

This site gives students a chance to practice their math skills, play a logic games and have some fun while doing it.

<http://www.figurethis.org>

This site offers some challenge problems, as well as useful information for parents interested in how to help their students with math.

<http://www.mathsisfun.com>

This site is covers basic math skills.

<http://www.shodor.org/interactivate/activities/>

These activities allow for exploration of concepts from middle school mathematics. A java-capable browser is required.

<http://nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/vlibrary.html>

These interactive manipulatives allow for exploration and practice on a wide range of topics ranging from Pre-K through high school. The site can be viewed in Spanish.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(first) (last)

Write about your experiences learning mathematics over the years. The purpose of this assignment is for you to reflect on how you feel about the subject of mathematics, how you best learn math, and to begin to set some goals for the upcoming school year, which will be your last year of *middle school* math at Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy.

Try to remember specific experiences you've had learning math. In each of the boxes that follow write about at least four specific experiences to help explain and reflect on your experiences with math over the years. Use the questions provided in each box to give you suggestions for what to write; but you **DO NOT** need to answer each question.

When you return to school in at the end of summer break, you should bring this assignment with you. It will be collected by your math teacher the first Friday back. You will receive credit for completing the assignment, and it will serve as the foundation for a follow-up activity teachers will carry out during the first marking period.

How does mathematics makes you **feel**? **Write at least four complete sentences** that share specific experiences that help explain **WHY** you feel the way you do about mathematics.

- What do you feel when you think about math? i.e. Excited? Anxious? Overwhelmed? Confident?
- What about math makes you feel this way?
- What is the most memorable experience you've had in the last few years that helps explain your feelings?  
(DON'T JUST SAY WHEN YOU GOT AN A OR AN F!)

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How do you **see yourself as a student of mathematics?** Write **at least four complete sentences** that share specific experiences that help demonstrate **WHAT KIND OF LEARNER YOU ARE** when it comes to mathematics.

- What is your learning style? i.e. By listening? By seeing? By doing?
- What classroom settings/activities make it easiest for you to learn mathematics? In other words, how do you *best* learn mathematics?
- What classroom settings/activities make it hardest for you to learn mathematics? What are the qualities of a math teacher you think best fits your learning style?

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What are your **goals for math class this year?** Write **at least four complete sentences** that share specific plans for **HOW** you plan to carry out your goals for mathematics beginning this September.

- What do you want to accomplish in math this year? *Go beyond grades!*
- What do you need to do to achieve your goals?
- What is the biggest challenge you will need to overcome? What will help you overcome this challenge?
- Who do you include in the circle of people who you believe can help you achieve your goals in math?

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