

COULEE KIDS MATH

Welcome to 7th Grade

I am very excited to get to know you and your family. Whether math is already your favorite subject or not, I believe you will quickly find out that in my math class there is always something happening to make learning fun for you. We will have a great year together!

A Bit About Me

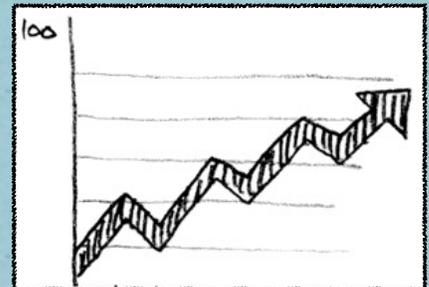
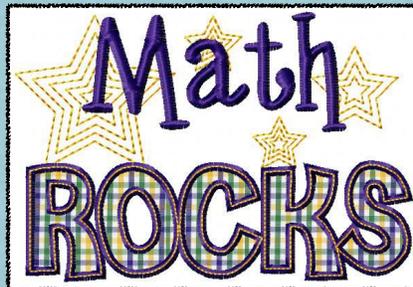
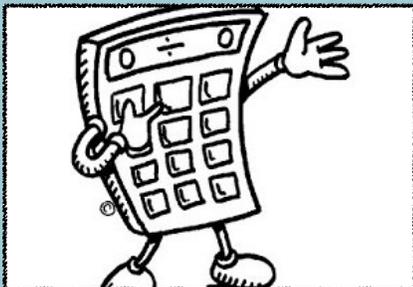
My family is a big part of who I am and how I spend my time. I have a lot of fun being a mom! We live in Onalaska, not too far from Longfellow. My husband and I have a great time being parents to David, Kate, and Megan. David is a junior at UW Madison and enjoys performing guitar. Kate, the "jelly in the middle," is 10 and loves 4th grade. Our little one is Megan, a first grader, with the sweetest personality.



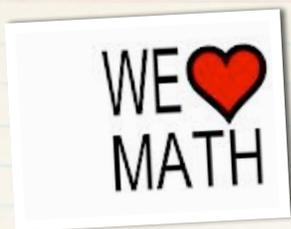
I love cycling and will complete my first 100 mile ride this fall. When I'm not being mom at home I really enjoy being a teacher and getting to know my students. Teaching is very rewarding! This is my 21st year already. My favorite grade to teach is 7th grade because I

love the enthusiasm, sense of humor, and compassion of teenagers. Your willingness to try new things and your desire to learn is impressive. Plus, you challenge me to be the best teacher I can be. I look forward to getting to know you!

~ Mrs. Ramsay



8 Mathematical Practices



PHILOSOPHY

The curriculum is problem centered. This means that the students will investigate mathematical ideas within the context of a realistic problem, as opposed to looking only at numbers and memorizing formulas. Students spend much of each class period working with a partner or a small group, applying the 8 Mathematical Practices. We then summarize the investigation with a whole class discussion and self-reflection. My math videos are assigned as homework to deliver new concepts and to give students an opportunity to think about what they're going to encounter in class.

Two important goals I have for my students are that they learn to value mathematics, and they become confident in their ability to do mathematics. This leads to better understanding and higher achievement.

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

Practice is very important. Problems are carefully selected to provide students the opportunity to assess their own understanding. Students choose the challenge level that

matches their needs. Keeping up with daily work helps students to gain confidence and experience success with math concepts and problem solving.

MATH FLIPPING

At home, students watch my teacher videos that present new concepts and respond to questions in an interactive approach, on the iPad. I ask students to identify the "what," "why," "how" of each lesson.

Expect homework each Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday—if needed, students will bring math work home more often.

DAILY MATH RUBRIC

Students are assessed in two areas: showing effort and achievement. The rubric has four levels:

- 4 - Exceptional
- 3 - Right On Track
- 2 - Making Progress
- 1 - Needs Improvement

ASSESSMENTS

Frequent informal check ups, quizzes, and tests are given throughout the year. Our new program has two volumes: semester one and two, organized by chapters 1-10.

GRADES

Homework 20%
Assessments and Class Work 80%

1. Make sense of problems
2. Reason abstractly
3. Critique others
4. Model with mathematics
5. Use appropriate tools
6. Attend to precision
7. Make use of structure
8. Repeated reasoning

FROM MRS. RAMSAY

As a mother of three kids, I do understand firsthand that offering your academic guidance to your growing teenager isn't always easy. It can become a struggle and perhaps something you'd rather avoid. I feel your pain, so I have summarized in six easy steps how you may find success in helping your teen this year. These are strategies that I have found to be very useful as both a mom and teacher.

1. Provide a quiet study place.

2. Help your child find an organizational system that works for him/her. Generally, if your child is achieving high grades, s/he has learned an organizational system that works.

3. Help your child develop good work habits which include writing down assignments and charging the iPad every day.

4. Encourage your child to find friends s/he can work with on assignments and ask questions.

5. Expect your child to get work done on time, to stay caught up, to get help, and to correct errors in work. Celebrate your child's success!

6. Middle school students need to know basic computation. If your child is struggling with math facts, help them by using flash cards, games/apps, or real-life problems to increase speed and accuracy.