

Syllabus for Mr. Keith M. Courts
7th Grade Class
School Year 2020 to 2021

Welcome to Mr. Courts' 7th-grade class!

Dear Parents and Guardians, and New 7th Grade Students,

My name is Mr. Keith Courts and I am one of your child's 7th grade teachers at CMS for Math and Science.

I have been a teacher here at Carquinez Middle School for the past seven (7) years. Altogether, I have been an educator for 18 years. Prior to joining the teaching profession, I was a corporate manager for various fortune 500 companies as well as being a small business owner for over twenty years. To date, I have educated over 1,000 students!

This year I am looking forward to an exciting yet different start of the 2020 to 2021 school year. Students will be learning math and science as well as character development, from me. Since this school year will start with distant learning... we will all have to put our best efforts forward so that we can work and learn in a productive manner.

During the summer my co-math teacher and colleague, Ms. Wesselmann had the opportunity to prepare online lessons which will allow for your child to get access to the full 7th grade Math and Science curriculum.

I work closely together with Ms. Shamroukhi who teaches 7th grade English and History. If you would like to schedule an appointment and talk or email with both of us, please know that we will work together to assist you and your child.

Math and Science are my key subjects. I am looking forward to working with you to ensure your child's learning what is needed for a seventh-grader. Your guidance and encouragement are important for your student's success.

You can reach me by email at kcourts@jsusd.org or you can leave a phone message at 510-787-1801, ex 4219. I will do my best to respond to email/calls before or after our scheduled online sessions.

The curriculum will be based on the California Department of Education 7th grade Common-Core Standard and the New-Generation Science Standards. More information is at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/>

The Math standards for 7th grade include these topics:

- Ratios and Proportional Relationships
- The Number System
- Geometry
- Statistics and Probability
- Pre- Algebra

For Science we will follow the topics for the NGSS for grade 7.

<http://nstahosted.org/pdfs/ngss/MatrixOfCrosscuttingConcepts.pdf>

Due to the difficulties and limitations of our COVID-19 protective situation, we all need to make a special effort this school year. Please make sure you read and understand the requirements for the upcoming school year.

Grading Standards for Math and Science in Mr. Courts' class:

1] Homework $\frac{1}{3}$ or 33.3% of the final grade (an example of a Ratio)

Please remind your child that there will be homework every day.

2] Tests $\frac{1}{3}$ of the grade

Students will take some tests every month- I will do my best to announce test dates and subjects. For most tests students will be able to use their own notes. The class journal is essential for your child's success. I put a lot of emphasis on Math and Science vocabulary to prepare your child for success.

3] Projects/ class participation 33.3 %

This grade will include class participation, the class journal and participation/ completion of assigned projects.

Supplies:

In order to be successful your child should have available:

- One three-ring binder with Math and Science sections;
- Many sharpened or mechanical pencils with erasers - I will do my best to balance online and paper assignments.
- Some kind of basic headphones for all online lessons.
- Two blank-notebook journals, one for Math and Science notes.

Attendance/ Late work

Attending online school is required, just like regular school. If your child needs to be absent for any session, please make sure your child checks with both me and Ms. Shamroukh about homework. I need your help in training your child to take responsibility for his/her own learning. If your child needs to be absent, it is even more important to do the missed homework, so as to not fall behind

I believe in acknowledging good behavior and willingness to try. If your child is preventing other students from learning... I will contact you via phone or email. Great online class participation and a positive attitude will be rewarded with grades, homework passes and other bonuses.

I am looking forward to an opportunity to meet you, learn about your expectations for this school year and to answer any questions. My goal is to help your child become a self-directed learner on his/her way to higher education.

Yours in education,

Mr. Keith M. Courts