

Welcome to Junior High Math: 2026-2027 School Year

This year's whole-school theme
is ART is the HeART of
Learning!



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Junior High Math! I am delighted to be your child's math teacher for the 2026-2027 school year. Our team also includes our dedicated inclusion teachers: Mrs. Boyd (6th grade, sboyd13@cps.edu), Mrs. Snyder (7th grade, cbomalley@cps.edu), and Mrs. Roche (8th grade, lzroche@cps.edu). Please feel free to reach out to any of us with questions or concerns throughout the year.

For 8th Grade Room 115 students, please note the following procedures:

Breakfast is served from 7:30 to 7:45 am in the multipurpose room. The school day begins promptly at 7:45 am. 8th graders will line up inside this year, with entry between 7:30 and 7:45 am. Students arriving after 7:45 am are considered tardy and must check in at the main doors with the security desk before proceeding to class. Dismissal for Room 115 students is at 2:45 pm out the rotunda doors.

Cellphones are not allowed on campus. If you believe your child needs to bring a phone, an application must be filed and principal approval granted. Once approved, students must follow all school rules regarding cell phone use. Any phone seen on campus by staff will be confiscated and must be retrieved by a parent or guardian from the school office between 7:30 am and 3:30 pm. Use of a cell phone during school hours will result in disciplinary action per the CPS Student Code of Conduct.

Please keep your email address updated with Mrs. Pienta to receive the latest school announcements and newsletters.

8th Grade 115 Enrichment Schedule: Monday (8:55-9:55): Theater Tuesday (8:55-9:55): P.E. Wednesday (8:55-9:55): Art Thursday (8:55-9:55): P.E. Friday (8:55-9:55): Art

Curriculum: We will be using the enVision Math series, which is fully aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Concepts are organized into units and chapters to build connections and support student understanding.

Homework: Students are expected to spend about 20 minutes on math homework each night. Assignments will be written in student planners and will include work from the textbook.

First Quarter Focus:

- 6th Grade (Ms. Byrnes & Mrs. Boyd):

Use Positive Rational Numbers

Integers and Rational Numbers

- 7th Grade (Ms. Byrnes & Mrs. Snyder):

Rational Number Operations

Analyze and Use Proportional Relationships

- 8th Grade (Ms. Byrnes & Mrs. Roche):

Real Numbers

Analyze and Solve Linear Equations

Calculators: 7th and 8th graders should have purchased a calculator for use at school and at home.

Planners and Absent Work: Daily planners are provided and are an excellent organizational tool. Homework is posted in every classroom. If your child is absent, a secretary in each room tracks missed work, which is placed in their mailbox. Junior High students are responsible for making up any missed assignments. Planners are also a great way for teacher-student-parent communication. Please ask your child for their blue card regularly, as it is our main communication tool regarding middle school expectations.

- Students will have 2 days to make up the work for each class day they were absent and will be graded according to the same criteria as if the student had not been absent
- For every day after the 2 days, the assignment will be graded for accuracy and also have 10 points deducted from the remaining total points (Include this in your parent letters!)
- Both absent and non-absent missing assignments are graded as 0% (missing)
- Absent “work” cannot be sent home prior to an expected absence as every assignment is given with instruction and is not considered “busy work.” Thank you for your understanding.

Grading: Our school uses a 10-point grading scale: 90-100 is an A, 80-89 is a B, and so on. Grades are updated weekly in Aspen, and both students and guardians should monitor progress. Proper headings are required for all graded work. There are no individual extra credit opportunities, so please encourage your child to complete all assignments on time. Missing work will be marked as “Msg” with a value of zero. Absent work should be completed within a couple of days upon return; late work is accepted for reduced value up to two days late. Group collaboration work cannot be made up in the event of an absence and will be marked as zero. Grade breakdown: Formative Assessments (Assignments, Exit Tickets) – 40%; Summative Assessments (Tests, Quizzes, Projects) – 45%; Group Collaboration (turn-n-talks) – 15%.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at lebyrnes@cps.edu.

I look forward to a productive and enjoyable year working together to make learning fun for your child!

Sincerely, Ms. Lauren Byrnes