

August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Blessings,

Peace be with you. I hope you had a wonderful summer and are anticipating the start of the new school year. We don't know what the year will look like, but we know that God is in control. Because of Covid-19, there will be some adjustments to policies and procedures as we work through various details for keeping the learning environment safe for everyone.

I am blessed to return to Annunciation Catholic School where “**We Pray, We Learn, and We Love**”. I will be teaching Math and Technology. As Galileo said, “Math is the language which God used to write the universe.” Math is both an art and a science since there are so many different ways to approach and solve problems. I love teaching and helping others “*learn how to learn*”.

I believe the process is as important as the answer. Some of the biggest obstacles I have observed are; students need help getting organized, being prepared, and ready to learn for each class.

Using the wrong formula will get the wrong answer.

Calculators may help with the arithmetic, but it won't help in setting up the problem!

Pressing incorrect keys will also produce incorrect answers! GIGO: Garbage in / Garbage Out.

Estimating, approximating, and making sense of data are critical problem-solving skills.

### **Writing the problem down and showing the work are important for learning mathematics.**

Learning is a discipline! We are using the *PearsonRealize* math books this year that are a combination Text Book, Notebook, and Workbook. The book is also available on-line with supplemental videos, tutorials and activities for additional support. We will also be using IXL-Math, Prodigy Math, Delta Math, Kahn Academy and other technology to supplement the classroom learning experience. Independent Practice is critical for learning.

While many students are able to "remember" things at this level, my goal is to help develop skills that will be beneficial in other classes and for "lifelong" learning. Students will be expected to take notes and maintain an organized binder. Assignments and materials will be posted on RENWEB. (and/or Google Classroom).

The dullest pencil remembers more than the sharpest mind! If I say, ***write it down***, it is probably important!

ACS provides every student with a PLANNER for recording homework assignments.

**They are to use it!** I also have a LEARNING LOG for the notebook that is to be filled in **every day!**

Your child should always be able to answer the question, "**What did you learn in math today?**"

While I am usually at school by 7:20 AM, it will not be possible to do before-school tutoring (at this time) because of the Covid-19 policies. I have a “free lunch” period on Wednesday and Thursday.

My planning period is from 10:40 - 11:20. I am usually here after school until 4:30. (Not Tuesday).

Email is the best way to communicate with me! [NTomboulia@acsnc.net](mailto:NTomboulia@acsnc.net) 252-675-0176

Don't let your child get frustrated with math. My goal is to teach for mastery and build a foundation for the next level. Math is like a language and it takes time to develop.

God made us all unique and different. So, while we are not the same, we all can learn and improve.

I need to make sure all students have a solid foundation and necessary skills to perform and function. Everyone doesn't learn the same way or at the same pace.

*We need to have patience with one another and respect our differences, strengths and weaknesses.*

I don't have many rules – students are to show behavior that: **Respects God, Others, Things and Self!**

**There are a few procedures to help insure the class functions smoothly.**

**Procedure #1 – Safety, Hygiene, and “Healthy Habits” is everyone’s responsibility!**

**Procedure #2** – Respect others. Talking and yelling out answers is not acceptable behavior. Personal grooming such as fixing hair and eating is not permitted in class. Water Bottles are to be on the floor!

**Procedure #3** - Have any homework open on the desk to be checked. I am usually not looking for the correct answers, but I want to see the formulas, steps and effort.

**Procedure #4** - Students need to be ready to learn each day. The date and topic for the day should be written in their notebook and planner and Learning Log. Pencils need to be sharpened! Calculators need to be out since we use them often. *There should be **no getting up** during the “lesson” to throw away trash or sharpen pencils.* Don't waste time!

**Procedure #5** - There will usually be a “**DO**” Daily Opener (or Bell Ringer) to be started as soon as students come into class. Come in quickly and quietly and get started on the daily work!

Try to go to the bathroom BEFORE you come into class! (But realize you may miss the work!).

My test questions come from the book, homework, examples we work in class, and practice exams. I realize some students do not test well. I do not believe a final grade should be measured or biased by poor performance on one day on a test. I will offer accommodations for students to re-test to show me they have learned the material. I am looking for effort in the classroom and growth on the exams. It is about learning!

Grades are a straight percent of points earned for: Homework, Participation and Quizzes/Tests. Daily Class Participation (being prepared) is very important. Late work (or work not done) will negatively impact grades! *This will be very important if we have to go to the Distance Learning.* Of course, there are always exceptions and circumstances to be considered! Grades are a guide to help measure and judge performance, but I am also looking for improvement and growth. *If you knew everything, you wouldn't need school!* I try to have grades updated every day on RenWeb. *Extra Credit is not to be used to “make-up” for poor quality and low effort on originally assigned work.* **Always try to do your best!**

ACS also has a Chess Club / Team, Math Club / MathCounts Team and Odyssey-Of-The-Mind. Because of COVID, clubs may not meet. I will need volunteers to assist in monitoring and mentoring students after school.

The **Safe Environment Certification** class is required. Watch for details will come later.

My classroom is also a place for kind words. We respect the rights of others to be heard and are polite and respectful when others are talking. **We practice doing the right thing all the time.**

I want each student to be successful in math, in other subjects, and in life. While ACS normally welcomes and encourages parent visits, we are asking to limit exposure and contact during this time. You must always check in at the office. We are partners in the journey we call education. Keep me advised of any situation or information I might need to know about your child that will allow me to be more effective in my teaching.

Please review the parent/student handbook for the **ACS Uniform Dress Code Standards** and **Student Code of Conduct**. I also have a **Student Expectation Sheet** for additional classroom information.

In His Service. Peace, Hope, Love and Joy,

Nolan Tomboulian (AKA - **Mr. T**)

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Annunciation Catholic School provides our students with a foundation in the Catholic Faith and a strong academic education.

We develop active citizens who live and love as Christ did.

*We make the world a better place.*

We Pray

We Learn

We Love