

Dear student,

As your teacher, I will do whatever I can to keep you safe and valued in my classroom. I will be on time, I will be prepared to teach you, I will treat you with dignity, and I won't give up on you. I will take responsibility for what I say and do, because I know that my words make an impact. I expect you to do the same.

I chose to be a teacher. I am not a teacher because I couldn't do anything else, and I'm obviously not in it for the impressive salary. I'm in it because I love teaching, because I want to help kids, and because I love math. I think every student deserves teachers who are highly trained and who care about them. I am on your side and I want to help you succeed. Please figure this out early. I am really quite a decent person. I promise not to swear/cuss in class, and I expect the same from you. I'm not saying I would think less of you if you occasionally use these words in your life, and I'm not saying I don't enjoy a good cuss word from time to time in my own home, but I know there's a time and place for everything, and school is not the time and place for that. Also please know that I care about all of my students so much that when I hear you making fun of someone, especially making generalizations about race or ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion, disability, etc., I see red and am liable to skip all the way down to the last couple of steps in this handy consequence chart:

What I expect from you:

- ***Using the classroom community for help.*** The classroom is open every day before school, and after school on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Some days I may be available during lunch too. I am always available by email, and I sacrifice most of my social life for you guys, so please take advantage of it! There is after school tutoring in the math pod on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 3:45. You guys should study together and ask for help when stuck on homework problems. The classroom community is your greatest resource, even better than google!
- ***Coming to class prepared to learn.*** This includes having your math binder, paper, pencil, calculator, and homework. It also means that you have the attitude that you can learn if you will make the effort.
- ***Asking questions:*** There's only so much mind-reading I can do; please take charge of your own learning! If I'm glossing over something that doesn't make sense, tell me. If you want me to do more examples, tell me.
- ***Completing your homework.*** I really really want you to do your homework! It hurts my feelings when I think people are copying their homework from a friend. Copying is not working together.
- ***Studying for quizzes and exams.*** Studying for a mathematics exam is different than studying for any other class. You cannot "cram" for a math test. Continual work, completing homework, and paying attention in class are the best way to prepare for a math test. The night before the test you should review homework assignments, quizzes, and study guide related to the topics on the test.

Here at AMES we think that a community where we all feel safe and we all feel valued is critical for student learning. We work toward the *8 Keys of Excellence*:

- *Integrity*: Match your behavior with your values
- *Failure leads to success*: Learn from your mistakes
- *Speak with good purpose*: Speak honestly and kindly
- *This is it!*: Make the most of every moment
- *Commitment*: Make your dreams happen
- *Ownership*: Take responsibility for actions
- *Flexibility*: Be willing to do things differently
- *Balance*: Live your best life

If you don't behave, I will...

- 1) Have a private talk with you where we discuss the inappropriate behavior and ask you to come up with a solution to change it.
- 2) If that doesn't solve the problem, I'll probably change your seat or do other things I can come up with myself to try to solve the specific problem.
- 3) If that still doesn't work, I'll talk to your parents about the problem and enlist their ideas in solving the problem.
- 4) If that STILL doesn't work, we'll have a conference with your parents, me, you, and Mr. Wilson or Mr. Katoa to try to come up with a solution.

Finally, I've made the wrong decision before and will probably make it again from time to time. If you disagree with something I've done please give me the courtesy of coming to talk to me about it. I am open to suggestions. Like I said, I am on your side and I want to help you learn.

Love, Mrs. Strong