



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How do I contact Mrs. Black?

My planning time is daily from 2 - 3 p.m.

My contact information is . . . Elana Black

PH: (810) 225-5252

eblack@pinckneypirates.org

2. My child said that he did nothing in class today. Is that true?

No, we learn all kinds of fun things in class, and you can see what your child is doing each day in class by viewing my agenda which is found under the Parent tab on the left side of the Pathfinder home page.

3. How will I know if homework has been assigned?

On my agenda, I will indicated whether there is homework and the day it is due. If no due date is posted, it is due the next day. The purpose of homework is for your child to review and practice the new math content. I don't expect him to have mastered the new content in 50 minutes. So homework is assigned and reviewed in class, but it is not recorded in MiStar. All assignments will be kept in the math and science binder and can be used to study for assessments.

4. How will I know if my child turned in his homework?

Our district uses MiStar for recording and reporting grades. However, since homework is 0% of the overall grade, you will only see summative assessment grades, unit tests, in MiStar. I will send you an email on the days your child has not turned in their work. However, if you do not have an email or have questions regarding your child's progress in math or science, please call me.

5. Why don't you grade homework?

I don't grade homework because the overall class grade should answer the question: "Did the student learn and achieve the learning targets or standards?"; A summative assessment would answer this question, and not homework. Homework is the part of the learning journey that informs the student, the parent and the teacher of the progress the student has made towards the learning target or standard. For this reason, homework is not graded.

5. What is a 4 point grading scale?

A four point grading scale uses the numbers 0-4 to represent a letter grade. Only summative assessments for math will be recorded in MiStar using the 4 point scale. Any student who feels that the summative assessment does not reflect their understanding of the learning target or standard is welcomed to come in before or after school to retake it.

Grading Scale

4 = A

3 = B

2 = C

1 = D

0 = E

There are no "+" or "-"

6. Why does my child need two 1-inch binders?

Since only summative assessments will be recorded in MiStar, these binders will be used to keep any notes, work or assessments that your child does in math and science class so that you and your child can view his understanding of the learning targets or standards at anytime.

7. Can my child retake a test?

Yes, your child is able to retake a summative assessment. However, he must show that he has practiced the target or standard by completing all the homework assignments. He must also correct the problems on the first assessment and meet with me to arrange a time to retake the assessment.

8. My child is struggling in math. What can I do?

Math can be a challenging subject to learn. However, please do not say to your child that “I don’t know how to do this new math” or “I was never good at math”. It will unconsciously give your child the idea that he doesn’t need to learn this math because he views you as a successful person “who was never good at this **new** math. So why should he have to learn it?” Instead please encourage your child to persevere through the homework problems and to ask questions in class. In addition, I am available to work with your child before and after school; and you can contact the Pathfinder Family Resource Center to ask for a list of available tutors.

Here is an excellent article that explains how you can help your child in school:

Important: The Undeniable Link between Rescuing and Responsibility – What Parents Need to Know This School Year | Parent Toolkit Blog

<http://www.parenttoolkit.com/index.cfm?objectid=86585700-41C4-11E5BDFB0050569A5318>

9. We are going on vacation. How will my child get his work?

When you know in advance that your child will be missing several days of school, you can contact the office; and they will have your child give a form to each teacher to explain the work he will need to do during his absence. Assignments are never counted late in math and science class, and they are not recorded for a grade in MiStar. However, it is important that your child does the work so he is informed and prepared for any summative assessment.

10. Will MSU beat Michigan again?

Yes! Without a doubt, the MSU Spartans are going to tear those ugly Wolverines to pieces. For this reason, I am collecting boxes of tissue so that I can pass it out to all those weeping Wolverine fans after the football and basketball game against MSU. The tissues will also be available at anytime a student needs one.

