



# Faiss Middle School Virtual Course Expectations

Dream... Believe... Soar to Achieve!

**Mr. Maxwell Olsen**  
**Math 8 Pre-Algebra**  
**2020-2021**

- I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This one-year course is designed to focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness, including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to our society. The use of manipulatives, mathematical tools, and technology, including calculators and computer software, is an integral part of this course. This course fulfills the mathematics requirement for eighth-grade students.

**ALEKS Online Curriculum:** <https://www.aleks.com> (also links provided on Math Canvas homepage)

**User name is student's first initial & last name capitalized, some with numbers following name.**

**Password is student's initials capitalized followed by their student ID#.**

- II. HOURS OF AVAILABILITY** – While we are in Distance Learning I am available to parents/guardians & students during morning virtual office hours Monday through Friday 8:20 - 8:55. I can be reached via email at: [olsenmb@nv.ccsd.net](mailto:olsenmb@nv.ccsd.net). Students may also reach me at any time through the ALEKS messenger which also attaches the problem that they are struggling with. Google Meets may also be arranged on an as needed basis. I ***do not*** use Canvas as a means of communication.

## **III. GRADING POLICY**

- A. DESCRIPTION OF GRADING PROCEDURES** – Students' grades will be calculated based on the following categories and percentages:

- 80% Mastery [assessments]
- 20% In Progress [classwork/practice]

**Note:** Students must follow strict deadlines on their ALEKS standards as listed on the left hand side of their ALEKS homepage, disregarding only those listed as “Not for Grade 0\_” as they are space holders, not actual assignments. Students are able to do “Quick Retakes” on tests having only to redo those problems which were incorrect, provided they are done prior to deadline as well. If at any time a student misses a deadline it is their responsibility to reach out to their teacher to see what if anything they can do for the missed assignment.

- B. BASIS FOR QUARTER AND SEMESTER GRADES** – The following will be utilized when assigning final grades for the quarter and the semester:
- 45 % Quarter Grade A
  - 45 % Quarter Grade B
  - 10 % Semester Exam

**GRADE SCALE**

ACADEMICS:	CITIZENSHIP:
100% - 90% = A 89%- 80% = B 79%- 70% = C 69%- 60% = D 59% or less= F	100 - 90 = Outstanding 89 - 70 = Satisfactory 69 – 50 = Needs Improvement 49 or less = Unsatisfactory  <b><i>** Point values recorded in Infinite Campus. Please see the Citizenship Rubric on Page 4.</i></b>

**Progress Reports/Report Cards are being named & completed in a different timeframe this year due to distance learning. Those dates are 9/11, 10/9, 11/6, 12/18, 2/5, 3/12, 4/16, & 5/26. However, it is highly recommended that parents/guardians & students check Infinite Campus (IC) on a regular basis, at least weekly so that there are no surprises come grade time.**

**C. ATTENDANCE/FAILING GRADES/RETENTION ENFORCEMENT:**

Attending school on a regular basis is vital to academic success. Students who miss more than 10 unapproved absences in any course during a semester (18 weeks) may receive a failing semester grade for that course. An approved absence, as defined, is an unavoidable absence caused by illness, court appearances, religious holidays, and an emergency outside the control of the student or the student’s family, and/or a prearranged absence (not exceeding 10 in a school year).

A pupil in Grade 6 must complete one semester with a passing grade in mathematics, English or reading, and science for promotion to the seventh grade. A pupil in Grade 7 must complete one semester with a passing grade in mathematics, English or reading, science, and social studies for promotion to the eighth grade. A pupil who enters Grade 8 must complete three semesters with a passing grade in mathematics, three semesters with a passing grade in English or reading, two semesters with a passing grade in science, and two semesters with a passing grade in social studies during the seventh and eighth grade years for promotion to high school (CCSD regulation 5123).

**D. MAKE-UP PROCEDURES:**

Teachers shall provide an opportunity for a student to make up missed work due to any absence. When a student is absent, the educational experiences lost during that absence might be irretrievable because the instruction and interaction in the instructional setting cannot be duplicated through make-up work. Students always have access to their ALEKS accounts in order to continue working on their current standard & can reach out to their teacher as needed. When an absence is known in advance, please notify the teacher.

If a student is absent they must access ALEKS on their own and complete work that is due for the week. Because ALEKS uses hard deadlines, I cannot reopen weekly topics once they have passed. Therefore, it is the sole responsibility of the students to make sure their weekly topics are done EVERY WEEK

BEFORE 11:59 PM ON SUNDAY NIGHTS. Weekly topics open up at 12:00 AM on Monday mornings and will continue until the next Sunday as previously stated.

- IV. STUDENT PLANNERS/NOTEBOOKS** – The usual student planners will not be utilized this year. Students will be encouraged instead to utilize the Calendar features available in Canvas in order to stay organized and aware of due dates for assignments and assessments within each of their courses. **However, for Math please use ALEKS for this purpose.**

**List of School Supplies:**

- Technology Device & Internet
- Pens, pencils with erasers, highlighters, ruler, & a dedicated spiral or composition notebook for math.
- Quiet, organized work area free of distractions.

**V. CLASSROOM RULES:**

**Virtual Classroom Norms**

1. **Please enter a virtual session on time with your microphone muted.**
2. **Turn your webcam on & off when asked by teacher.**
3. **Normal classroom expectations are to be followed beginning with RESPECT.**
4. **Utilize the chat for academic conversation & questions only.**
5. **To maximize your virtual learning experience please remain logged on for the entire 75 minute class session Monday - Thursday & for the 45 minute class session on Fridays unless otherwise advised by teacher.**
6. **Come prepared with the following materials, pens, pencils, erasers, highlighters, rulers, & a dedicated composition/spiral notebook for Math.**
7. **Instructional videos will be recorded and shared on Canvas when permitted to do so, therefore you do not need to record sessions or take screenshots.**
8. **Please hang up/ disconnect from session when instructed by teacher that class has ended & connect to your next class**

**A. FAISS FLYER 15**

All students will be expected to model the Faiss Flyer 15 at all times and be awarded points for their house for doing so.

1. When responding to any adult, you must answer by using their name and/or saying “Yes Ma’am/Sir” or “No Ma’am/Sir.
2. Always say thank you when given something.
3. Surprise others by performing random acts of kindness.
4. Regardless of where you are on campus, keep it clean.
5. If someone drops something, offer to pick it up.
6. Be considerate of others and hold the door.
7. You are expected to learn and follow your teacher’s classroom rules.
8. Make eye contact and track the speaker.
9. During discussions, respect other students’ comments, opinions, and ideas.
10. Make every effort to be organized.
11. Always encourage your classmates to be successful.
12. When a guest teacher is present, greet them, make them feel welcome, and follow all classroom rules.
13. Be positive and enjoy life. A smile goes a long way.

14. Learn from your mistakes and move on.
15. No matter what the circumstance, always be honest.

## **B. PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE PLAN**

All teachers at Faiss Middle School will use the following progressive discipline plan (dependent upon similar infraction):

1. Teacher intervention
2. Teacher intervention with parent contact
3. Teacher intervention with parent contact
4. Referral to Office of Student Success

**C. ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS** - While Canvas is a platform with assignments & due dates for all other subjects, my Math 8 Pre-Algebra classes are using ALEKS as our curriculum for all assignments. We have been using ALEKS for several years prior to going to distance learning & upcoming assignments & their due dates are automatically listed on ALEKS, NOT Canvas. Students are expected to check ALEKS on a daily basis to keep current & complete all assignments by assigned due dates. Students should also check IC at the very least on a weekly basis to keep track of grades & possible missing assignments & reach out to their teacher to see if/what can be done if they are missing any. As previously stated students are expected to report to class at the assigned time & remain there until dismissed by their teacher in order to get all of the information they need to be successful in the course.

**VI. CITIZENSHIP** – Students will earn a citizenship grade for each quarter based on their behavior. Grades will be tracked each quarter in students’ gradebooks on Infinite Campus. The following citizenship categories apply:

<i>Citizenship grades reflect class behavior, responsibility, cooperation, ability to work with peers, adherence to the Faiss Flyer 15 principles, and overall attitude. This rubric outlines the behavior and performance criteria for earning citizenship grades.</i>				
Expectations	Outstanding	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement	Unsatisfactory
<b>Be respectful to teacher.</b>	Treats teachers in a respectful manner. Stands to participate without reminders. Says “yes/no” and “Ma’am/Sir” consistently. Consistently tracks the speaker. Follows directions. Asks questions appropriately.	Usually treats teachers in a respectful manner. May need to be reminded to stand. Attempts to address with respect (“Ma’am/Sir”), but not 100%. Mostly tracks the speaker. Uses appropriate language with adults. May need reminders to follow directives.	Sometimes treats teacher disrespectfully. May need a reminder to be respectful and caring. Does not say “yes/no” “Ma’am/Sir” and is often not tracking the speaker. May occasionally use a rude tone or sarcasm with staff or exhibit mild insubordination.	Consistently treats teachers disrespectfully; moderate to severe chronic misbehavior in class; rude tone; insubordination and/or belligerence.
<b>Be respectful to classmates and guests.</b>	Encourages and helps others; cleans up after self and others; says please, thank you, may I; praises and encourages others; works well independently and cooperatively; does not tolerate bullying; brings supplies daily; shows good sportsmanship; opens doors for others; does not cut in line.	Usually treats classmates respectfully. Cleans up only after self, but not others. Does not consistently use please, thank you, may I; mostly works well collaboratively; may occasionally borrow supplies, but usually has them; opens doors for others; does not cut in line.	Some misbehavior during class; sometimes treats classmates disrespectfully or exhibits inappropriate horseplay during class. Seat may be moved for misbehavior or peer conflict. Does not say please, thank you, may I; may let down the collaborative team; comes to class unprepared; may be bossy towards others.	Often treats class members in a negative way with put-downs, tone of voice, refusals or bullying; entices others to misbehave. Whines or complains about work aloud or otherwise lowers class morale. Poor group participation seat may be moved for misbehavior or peer conflict.
<b>Be the best you can be!</b>	Is on time, honest and positive, self-reflective upon their work, and submits the best work at all times. Does not leave class until dismissed.	Usually on time (1-2 tardies; does not submit 100% effort; may have no-name papers occasionally; occasionally may try to stand to leave class before dismissed.	Sometimes late (3-4 tardies; turns in work that is incomplete rather than requesting an extension; uses late passes often or may have missing/incomplete assignments; may try to stand to leave class before dismissal.	Often late (5 or more tardies), frequently turns in work that is incomplete or uses all late passes for the quarter; has missing/incomplete assignments; may try to stand to leave before class dismissal
<b>Apply metacognitive strategies.</b>	Uses 100% of class time to work. Completes classwork regularly. Sets goals and timelines for finishing work on time; monitors own self; self-redirects; advocates for self as needed; positively participates in class frequently; assess	Completes most classwork; sets goals and timelines for finishing most work on time; monitors own work; may advocate for self; may occasionally participate in class; assess own work and work of others honestly.	Usually does not complete classwork. Sometimes listens and follows directions. Needs frequent reminders to remain on task. Does not participate appropriately (blurting out or creates off-task distractions); may not assess work honestly.	Academic apathy. Rarely does classwork. Disturbs and distracts others. May be sent to time-out location or office. Does not participate appropriately (blurting out or creating off-task distractions).

	own work and others' honestly.			May not assess work honestly.
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**Faiss Middle School**  
**Course Expectations Parent Awareness Sheet**  
**2020-2021**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Hello, my name is **Maxwell Olsen** and I will be your child's **Math 8 Pre-Algebra** teacher this year. **Please take a moment to read the attached course expectations.** At some time during the year, I may find it necessary to contact you concerning your child's academic progress and/or behavior in the classroom. Please make sure all of your contact information, phone numbers, & emails have been updated. At Faiss MS, we look forward to communicating with families on a regular basis. The strongest ally I have in the classroom is YOU. Students do better in school when teachers and parents communicate proactively especially in this a year like no other.

I look forward to having a successful year with all of my students, regardless if virtual or otherwise. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me either by phone or email. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

**Maxwell Olsen**  
[olsenmb@nv.ccsd.net](mailto:olsenmb@nv.ccsd.net)