

**HOLD YOURSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR A HIGHER STANDARD  
THAN ANYONE ELSE EXPECTS OF YOU!**

**Text:** *Discovering Geometry: An Inductive Approach*

**Author:** Michael Serra

**Course Description:** Geometry is the study of visual patterns and the development of logical thinking. This class is designed to help students develop and refine their analytical, inductive, and deductive thinking skills. Algebra concepts will be incorporated throughout the year. This class is for “doers”. Students will be actively involved in the process of learning and creating. Technology will be integrated as needed and where appropriate. Read carefully, enjoy the challenge and take satisfaction in your accomplishments. So that you understand my expectations and practices, please make special note of the following:

Please remember that this is your room and your class. The behavior and participation of each person will shape the type of learning that will occur. Since one person’s behavior affects everyone else, I request that everyone in the class be responsible for classroom management.

To ensure that our rights are protected and upheld, there are two basic words you need to remember in this classroom:

**RESPECT AND RESPONSIBILITY**

**The Law: To Be Followed Without Exception**

1. **Respect** yourself, others and the classroom. Please treat others as you would like to be treated. Listen, actively participate and be courteous.
2. **Responsibilities include the following:**
  - a) **Class Necessities:** Something to write with, a notebook, completed homework, book and a good attitude. Please have a compass and protractor for use at home. Books must remain covered at all times! Calculators **can’t** be used until we complete chapter 4!
  - b) **Attendance:** Arrive on time for class (in your seat before the bell rings). Regular attendance is expected. There is a high correlation between good attendance and success in school. It is **your** responsibility for obtaining and making up all missed material.
  - c) **Notebook:** Note taking is absolutely required and all notebooks should be neat, accurate and updated with class work. It is important to note that this textbook does not contain a glossary of terms. The class will be developing a working set of definitions together. It is important that students keep track of these definitions throughout the course.
  - d) **HOMEWORK:** Assignments will be given every night and checked the following day for completeness and effort. Every problem must be attempted to receive credit. I do not grade homework for correctness! I am looking for effort. All assignments will be thoroughly reviewed in class the next day. Missed and incomplete assignments will negatively impact your term grade. Homework will count 10% of your term grade. Homework grades are updated 2x per quarter (halfway through and at the end of each quarter.) Each missed or incomplete homework will cause a deduction from your term homework grade.
  - e) **Make-ups:** If you miss notes, an assignment, quiz or test because of an absence, you need to make arrangements to get caught up upon returning to class. Quizzes and tests that are not made up count as zeros per school policy. You are responsible for the material we cover when you

miss class. You can email me @ [lynn\\_swidey@wrsd.net](mailto:lynn_swidey@wrsd.net) for missed assignments and power point presentations.

- f) Extra-help: I am more than willing to give extra help to anyone at a mutually convenient time. It is important that you come with specific questions. Please keep in mind that extra-help is just that, extra-help. It is not tutoring!!!! It does not include re-teaching lessons due to poor classroom conduct, unnecessary repeated absences, field trips, and unmet classroom obligations. Please take care of problems as they occur. It is not wise to wait until the night before a quiz or test to ask for help.
- g) Classroom Arrangement: You will be randomly assigned to a group of 5-6 students. Be willing to listen, actively participate, ask questions and help. In groups, you can accomplish much more with less anxiety. Remember, the purpose is to help you understand more! I will monitor groups carefully.
- h) Grading: Quizzes will be given throughout the chapter and tests will be given at the end of each chapter. These will be announced in advance, no surprises! Your term average will be based on quizzes(count 1X), tests(count 2x) and homework (approx 10%). There will be opportunities each term to earn extra credit.
- i) Algebra Topics will be inserted FREQUENTLY throughout this course to reinforce topics learned last year and prepare students for Algebra 2 Honors.
- j) NO CELL PHONES OR ANY OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES!!!
- k) We will cover chapters 1 – 5 semester 1 and chapters 6-13 semester 2. I will also reinforce previously learned algebra concepts.

FINAL NOTE: It is my hope that you will enjoy this course and learn as much as possible. I want you to leave this course with more than knowledge of mathematical concepts. During the year, it is my hope that you refine your organizational, independent thinking, and problem solving skills and become a thinker who is not afraid to approach any problem. With your time and effort, you are very capable of succeeding. Remember to some extent, mathematics plays a role in our lives and much to the surprise and dismay of many, as careers advance, math often returns to haunt them.

I very much enjoy relating to people on a mutual respect level. It has been my experience that human interaction can be very rewarding when such respect exists. I will always extend this consideration to you and ask only that you return this in kind. Please remember, no matter how hard I ask you to work, I will be working as hard or harder to make sure that you understand the concepts we cover!

Sincerely,  
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