**7th Grade Math/Pre-Algebra**

Dear Parents,

I look forward to working with your child this year as we delve deeper into the world of pre-algebra. Seventh grade is an important year, and a student’s math grade is a major factor our competing high schools consider. Therefore, I would like to share some tips for a successful year. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions or concerns at cmuir@visitationschool.org

**Keys for Success**

GOOD NOTE TAKING: As most of us likely remember from our high school and college years, good note-taking skills are invaluable. Students are asked to take notes daily. A successful student’s notebook will be neat, organized and complete. Notebooks are graded as part of classwork each trimester. If absent, students are to get the notes from a classmate upon their return. Notebooks are great study aids for tests.

HOMEWORK and CORRECTIONS: Homework will be given daily. Each homework assignment will consist of problems meant to reinforce understanding/skills of the day’s lesson or a past lesson. Some homework problems require the application of taught skills and a good amount of critical thinking. Students may experience frustration and may need support. Please remember this is by design. Students’ attempts at challenging problems are what helps them to grow academically. Homework is to follow the specific format given and is to be presented neatly. Necessary work is to be shown, and ALL problems are to be attempted.

Each day students are asked to check their homework for errors and are expected to correct those errors on a separate correction page. Corrections are to be worked on before students begin their homework assignment. This process helps students to gain a better understanding of math concepts and become more aware of their math weaknesses.

TEST PREPARATION: Due to the spiraling nature of the curriculum, careful preparation is suggested. Be assured that tests ONLY contain problems that require skills or understanding already covered in class. However, after many lessons have been covered, a student would not know which lessons to study from to help prepare for the test. Therefore, completing homework daily and providing genuine corrections become the tools needed for proper preparation of tests.

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS: All graded student work will be sent home approximately every two weeks. To improve upon past test scores, I would suggest that students take the time to discover the errors they had made in the previous test. Though I don’t require test corrections (nor are points given for them), it is highly suggested and can have a positive impact on future assessments.

WILLINGNESS TO LEARN: There is likely no greater indicator of a student’s success than a student’s motivation to learn. Each day I attempt to prepare and implement lessons that will engage student learning. I use a variety of teaching strategies to that end. I value the discovery process and group collaboration, and I provide direct instruction models and opportunities to practice skills. If a student comes to class willing to learn, then I am more able to facilitate that student’s success.