



WELCOME BACK



Sahuarita Middle School

350 W. Sahuarita Rd.
Sahuarita, AZ 85629

August 4, 2009

Mr. Wren's Class Letter

Hello

This is it! August marks the beginning of the 2009/2010 school year. I've been thinking whether I would say, "twenty-ten" or "two thousand and ten" next year. After much deliberation and sleepless nights, I decided on twenty-ten. And who says summer breaks are boring?

Welcome back to school. I'm John Wren and I'll be teaching Algebra I, 7th Grade Math, and the JNN elective. My guess is that you are pretty jazzed about this school year. I hope you are excited, not because of my awesome classroom paint job; which is pretty awesome, but because you are eager to learn and work hard. I realize that working hard doesn't sound like fun. However, just because something isn't, "fun", doesn't mean it isn't rewarding. If you are willing to work hard, persevere, and take advantage of the opportunity you are given, you will have a good year in math. Unfortunately, the inverse is also true.

Now, some people were blessed with friendly looks and inviting personalities. Not me. My face at rests looks indifferent and grumpy. I don't think I'm any of those things. In fact, I teach because it makes me happy and nothing would please me more than your success. I look forward to teaching you this year.

Sincerely,

John Wren

Expectations and Rules

I think it is important to have some basic rules and expectations in order to maintain a calm, efficient, and safe environment for learning. The classroom rules and expectations listed in the next column are on my classroom walls.

Classroom Expectations

- We are here to work
- Do your best
- Do what's right
- Respect Everyone

Classroom Rules

- Follow directions and procedures
- Stay in your seat
- Show speaker courtesy
- Let others work in peace and quiet
- Show respect to everyone

Detentions

After ten years of teaching I have a bag of tricks, techniques, and methods to help students meet classroom expectations and rules. However, if a student is unwilling to control their behavior, I have a plan. Most behavioral issues are corrected in the classroom. Students may be assigned a lunch or after school detention if it is a logical consequence. All detentions will be served in my classroom.

Grading Policies

Homework

Students will be assigned homework about 4 days a week. Homework assigned will mirror what was practiced in class. Therefore, students should be able to complete their homework assignments independently. Homework checks and collections will occur at the beginning of class. Homework quizzes will occur on Fridays.

Category Breakdown

- Homework (~30%)
- Weekly Homework Quizzes (~40)
- Unit Tests and Quizzes (~30)

Absent Work

Students are responsible for making sure they collect and complete any missed assignment from the "absent work" folders. Students have 1 day plus the number of days absent to complete work for full credit. However, special arrangements will be made for family emergencies, extended illnesses, or other unforeseen circumstances.

Makeup Tests and Quizzes

All missed tests and quizzes due to absences are to be made up before the end of the quarter. All tests and quizzes will be marked a zero on their progress report until they are made up. Usually a drastic drop in a student's grade is the result of a missed quiz or test.

Cheating

A student cheating, helping another student cheat, or willfully exhibiting dishonest behavior will receive a zero for the assignment, quiz, or test. An example of dishonest behavior is changing a quiz answer in order to receive credit for it, after it has already been corrected.

Closing Comments

Hopefully, I was able to answer some of the questions you had regarding my class. However, if there is something that is not addressed here, please let me know.

Name: John Wren
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Odds and Ends

Recommended Materials

- Pencils
- Filler Paper
- Two Pocket Folder

Open House

- Date: August 13
- Time: 6:00 PM

SMS Growl Statement

- **G**et There
- **R**espect
- **O**wn Up
- **W**atch Out (for others)
- **L**earn

Trivia for Scavenger Hunt

- Mascot: Jazz Jaguar
- Number of tiles on the NJHS Tile Walls: 170
- Sports Conference: Southern Valley League
- Classroom colors: Warm Caramel and Garden of Paradise
- Defending Kickball Champions: Mr. Kutina's 6th Period 2008/2009
- Kickball Trophy: "The Wren Statue"
- Mr. Wren's Korean Name: Man Sik Baek
- College football coach with the most wins: John Gagliardi, Saint John's University (461). Division III counts? Go Johnnies!

[Please return the bottom portion to Mr. Wren-----]

I have received and read Mr. Wren's Class Letter _____ Date _____
(Parent Signature)