

Incoming Freshman Parent's Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where can my son/daughter get help if he/she needs it?

Most of our math teachers offer tutoring during various times of the day. Some hours are set, and some are by appointment. There is also the academic center in the library, where we have highly qualified students and sometimes adults that can help in math.

2. How will my son/daughter's grade be calculated?

In middle school, the grades are typically weighed heavily on homework so the grades are usually higher than they would be in high school. Here at the high school level, we weigh more heavily on tests and quizzes. If a student comes to class everyday, tries hard and does all the homework, but does not perform on the assessments.....typically he/she will not pass. That is usually a shock to first time high school parents.

3. If my son/daughter fails a test or quiz can they re-do it or have some extra credit to help make up the difference.?

Teachers in high school do not allow re-do's on tests or quizzes. Most of the teachers do not give extra credit to offset such low scores. The grades are what they are pure and simple. We calculate the grades and once they are calculated that is what we turn in. There are no changes or negotiations.

4. How much homework can I expect my son/daughter to be getting every night?

Most teachers give homework every night. In math every night there should be anywhere from 15-40 minutes of homework. Homework is due the following day and no late work is accepted unless the student was absent and has an admit.

5. Will my child need a calculator? If yes, what kind?

In most classes a scientific calculator is very helpful, but not required. If your child wants to continue on through Precalculus and beyond, then a graphing calculator will eventually be required. (TI-84 is usually recommended by the math dept.) It might be better to wait until school starts to get input from their teachers.

6. Can I request particular teachers for my child?

Absolutely not. Students are assigned to certain teachers based on the master schedule and class balancing. Our teachers teach certain classes on a rotating basis, so there is no guarantee that they will get a specific teacher or that the teacher you want will be teaching that course.

7. How do I contact my child's teacher?

Most of our teachers are accessible via email on the BHS website or schoolloop. Please have your son/daughter double check with their teachers on the best way to communicate with them. Also be sure to register yourself on schoolloop, which is the best way to get in touch with teachers and keep up with your child's progress.

8. How do I find out how my child is doing?

Many of our teachers are using schoolloop to publish grades periodically. Some teachers post the grades in their classrooms. Please have your son/daughter check with their teachers to find out what is their teacher's preference for grade publication. We advise that the student keep track of his/her own grade. You will receive also a progress report from the school every 6 weeks by mail.

9. What grade does my son/daughter need to move on to the next level?

A grade of "D" is technically passing for high school credit, but the student does not move on to the next level and colleges don't recognize the D grade. So really a "C" is necessary to pass and move on.

10. How does my son/daughter make up a D grade?

Summer school is available or they can repeat the class for the full year. Semester repeats are generally not allowed.

11. How does the school communicate with me?

Schoolloop is a great way to find out all the current news and keep up on school happenings.

12. How does my son/daughter find out what an assignment is when they are absent?

We advise all students to keep up with their work even when they are absent. Most teachers in the math department post their assignments daily on schoolloop. If an assignment is not there, we advise they call a friend in the class. It is not good to get behind in any of their subjects.

13. What do we do if we need to go away and take our son/daughter with us?

We strongly discourage this, but sometimes there are events that cannot be helped and a student must be taken out of school. The student needs to get an independent study plan from the main office and have each teacher sign it and give them assignments to take with them that will be due upon their return to school. All tests and quizzes that they have missed in math will have to be taken upon their return.

14. Who do I call if my child is having a problem?

The first person to contact is your student's teacher. Contacting by email is the best way. Many teachers do not have any way of picking up their voicemails. If the problem cannot be resolved, then contact either department co-chair. We will try and resolve the issue. Our emails are listed at the bottom of this sheet.

Math Department Co-Chairs

Cathy Payne: cpayne@smuhsd.k12.ca.us

Christina Wade: cwade@smuhsd.k12.ca.us