**Critical Thinking in Mathematics Syllabus**

5th Grade – 2nd Semester 2012-13

Mr. James Moleta

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Wesley 258

**TEXT**: Glencoe Mathematics Applications and Concepts Course 1

**GRADING**: Classwork / Quizzes 50%

Tests / Projects 30%

Homework 20%

**COURSE OVERVIEW**: Critical Thinking in Mathematics will focus on strengthening problem-solving skills and mathematical concepts with which students have previously worked. Students will explore these concepts in a variety of ways, including frequent collaborative interactions and hands-on practice. The students’ objective will be to take what they know, better understand how to use it, and have fun doing it!

**EXPECTATIONS**:

* Students will come to class prepared to learn and with the required supplies and materials. Students who fail to come prepared may experience academic penalties (For example: If there is a pop quiz, he/she may earn a low grade) or be required to come to extra help after school.
* Students will participate in all class time activities and treat others with respect and courtesy. Non-participatory students will be required to come to extra help after school.
* Students will use tablets only when allowed and as directed during class time. Any unauthorized use, emailing, etc. will result in a detention. There will be no “warnings.”
* Students will arrive on time for class. Students who are not on time will be counted as tardy, and anyone who is tardy (unexcused) four times in one semester will receive detention per the MS handbook guidelines.
* All assignments submitted for a grade will include correct MLA heading and a signed honor pledge. Papers lacking any of this information will lose 5 percent.
* Students will complete their own assignments without assistance from others except when they have specifically been encouraged to collaborate with others.
* Students will complete and turn in all assignments on time. Critical Thinking in Mathematics will have approximately 10 minutes of homework, two nights each week. There will be a deduction of 10 percent for homework that is one day (not class) late. Homework that is two days late will receive a zero. A late paper or project will lose ten points for the first two days that it is late. On the third day, a zero will be given. Students who fail to turn in an assignment will be required to come to extra help.
* Students will be responsible for contacting me about making up work missed during an absence. Students have the same number of days to make up assignments as the number of days they were absent. Students who anticipate having planned absences should contact me *before* the absence to arrange to turn their work in early when possible.
* Students will access the 5th grade Wiki page for homework assignments and additional information: [**http://5thgradewolves.wikispaces.com/**](http://5thgradewolves.wikispaces.com/)**Critical+Thinking** and participate in blog-style journaling at [**http://moletawiki.wikispaces.com/**](http://moletawiki.wikispaces.com/)
* Students are expected to spell mathematical terms correctly and write in complete sentences. Up to 5 points per assignment may be deducted for misspelled terms and/or incomplete sentences.
* Students will not violate the school’s honor code. *The honor code addresses both cheating and either lying or withholding the full truth in any situation. The honor code also addresses plagiarism, which will not be permitted in any form. Plagiarism is taking information from a source and not citing the source, claiming credit for an idea that is not your own, or copying information from a source and not documenting that source.*
* Completed assignments will be graded and returned to students within four class periods of completion.
* I will be available to provide extra help every Monday-Thursday from 3 until 3:30 pm. *Please note: I encourage all of my students to seek my help during back work. Since I teach the entire 5th and 6th grade, priority will be given first to students who had class with me on a given day. A student should seek help first from the classroom teacher or the school writing lab. When a tutor’s services are obtained, communication between the tutor and the teacher is recommended for success. A tutor should guide the student with parallel examples that further aid the student’s ability to work self-sufficiently and become an independent learner.)*

Please e-sign your name below with your stylus and ask a parent to sign as well. Students should keep a downloaded copy of the syllabus for the entire semester as a reference guide.



I understand the expectations for

**Critical Thinking in Mathematics**,

and I agree to meet them.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_