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GEOMETRY COURSE DESCRIPTION & BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

Course Description:

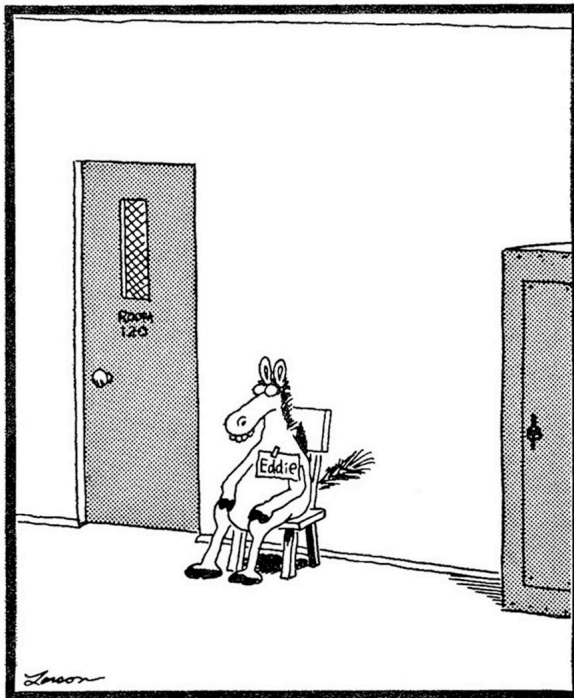
There is a legend that Pythagoras, a Greek mathematician of the sixth century BC, wanted to see if he could teach someone geometry. After finding a somewhat reluctant student, Pythagoras agreed to pay him a penny for each theorem he learned. Because the student was very poor, he worked diligently. After a time, the student realized that he had become more interested in geometry than in the money he was accumulating. In fact, he became so intrigued with his studies that he begged Pythagoras to go faster, offering now to pay him back a penny for each new theorem. Eventually, Pythagoras got all of his money back.

What is there about geometry that the student could have found so fascinating? Maybe it is because geometry was the first system of ideas developed by man in which a few simple statements were assumed and then used to derive a whole body of more complex ideas. Such a system is called deductive. The beauty of geometry is that it has inspired people in other fields to organize their ideas in the same way. One eighteenth-century man of letters went so far as to say "a work of morality, politics, criticism.... will be more elegant if it is shaped by the hand of geometry."

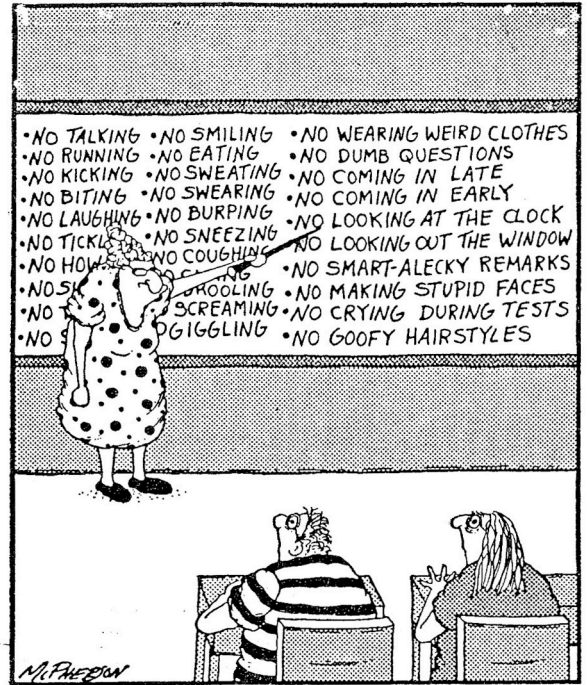
The study of geometry is also valuable because of the variety of applications to other subjects. Astronomers use geometry to measure the distance from the earth to the moon, artists have used geometry to develop the theory of perspective, and chemists use it to understand the structure of molecules. In geometry, you will learn to use logic and deductive reasoning so that your arguments are valid. You will also learn about lines, angles, triangles, polygons, trigonometry, circles, and how geometric figures relate to one another.

You will have many opportunities in your study of geometry to use your imagination. Since geometry is a logical system, however, you need to take the time to become thoroughly acquainted with the ideas contained within it. Geometry is not like any math class that you have taken. It will require you to always study with pencil and paper at hand: concentrate, plan well, work hard and take pleasure in your accomplishments. The knowledge you gain will give you the power to solve many problems related to your future schoolwork and careers and also enables you to better understand the world around you.

Expectations/Rules:



As a young colt, Mr. Ed was often sent to the hall for speaking out of turn.



Mrs. Mutner liked to go over a few of her rules on the first day of school.

1. Math is like sports (only a lot more fun). As with any sport, serious practice is required to perform at your best! Homework is a very important part of your practice and has a big effect on your performance in this class. In fact, homework is worth more than the final exam (see the syllabus for details). Most important is the fact that I become EXTREMELY cranky when students arrive without homework in hand. Trust me.
2. Coming for help is more than OK - it is great! I will be here during tutorial and there will be other students that you can work with as well. Math is a lot of fun when you get past the anxiety! We will work together (one big happy math family) to make this a successful year for all of us.
3. Being rude to me or to another classmate is NOT OK. Rudeness is about how the other person feels, no matter what you may have meant, so be careful! I want everyone to feel comfortable and safe here in Geometry paradise. This means no name calling, ridiculing, swearing (search for synonyms - it will build your vocabulary), shoving, screaming, or attacking each other with your new geometry toys.
4. Being unprepared for class is NOT OK. It is one of the few things that will send me into a rage (not a pretty sight). Always have your notebook, covered textbook, paper, correcting pen, geometry toys* and pencil with you when you enter the classroom.
*** You will need a compass, protractor and calculator (scientific or graphing) every day**
5. Cheating is NOT OK. It is the other thing that will send me into a fit of rage (see above). Anly High School has a tough cheating policy. Don't risk it - EVER!!

6. Being late is NOT OK. I should know - I am chronologically challenged and my tardiness is a constant source of irritation for my friends. We all need to be here on time!
7. Electronic devices (e.g. MP3 players, iPods) are OK if we are all working independently (not during lecture or group work), and even during a test, as long as you keep the volume down.
8. Using cellular phones is NOT OK. Other distracting activities like writing notes, applying nail polish, doing other teacher's assignments, etc., are NOT OK because they take your mind off of math.
9. Gum chewing is OK as long as you share with me (new pieces, please) and as long as it **always** ends up in the trash and not on the floor or under the desk (disgusting).
10. Follow routines for entering, leaving and moving around the classroom. Lining up by the door like a herd of cattle while awaiting the dismissal bell is NOT OK. I'll let you know when you'll be forced to leave paradise.
11. Eating is OK in the classroom as long as you are discrete about it. Setting up a multi-course feast for yourself can be a bit distracting for the rest of us, so please stick with manageable food items that are not noisy, smelly or messy. Please clean up any messes you make or this privilege will be revoked.
12. Being mean/rude/unhelpful to a sub is NOT OK. Being a substitute is the hardest job in the world. You are expected to go out of your way to help and support any substitute in my classroom. You will receive a list of substitute rules. Check out the consequences - they're intense!!!!

You will succeed in this class if you participate, try to have a positive attitude, **keep up** and come in for help when you need it. The most successful students I've seen have made a habit of coming to tutorial and working with the other geometry students. You will find that problems are easier to solve when you can bounce your ideas off of other people. In addition, you will learn to communicate your thought processes. This kind of communication will be an important skill in whatever career you choose in the future - so give it a try! I am looking forward to a great year with all of you.