

TQR – Transition to Quantitative Reasoning

Course Overview

TQR is designed to strengthen your mathematical foundations and prepare you to be college and career ready. We will work collaboratively in class to solve challenging problems where we gather, analyze, and evaluate information. We will work in teams to make decisions using critical reasoning skills and share ideas and communicate concisely through written and oral language. Throughout the course we will persevere to solve real-world and theoretical mathematical problems, develop a greater perspective of underlying structures of mathematics, and work to connect mathematical topics.

Materials

There is not a hardcopy textbook for this class – materials will be handed out each day in class. You will need a binder or notebook to organize yourself and your work. You will also need lined paper, a ruler, pencils, and erasers. A scientific calculator would be handy. Your first assignment will be to access Khan Academy. Be sure to bookmark it for easy reference. This will be the primary source of individual practice. Daily agendas and all assignments will be available through Canvas.

Classwork/Homework

Classwork will be very collaborative and primarily exploratory/inquiry based. It is time to try out different approaches, strategies and ask lots of questions of your team and/or teacher. The weekly homework assignment is in Khan Academy and is about individual practice time, and review of mathematical ideas that will be needed for upcoming classwork. Homework is assigned on Sunday and due by Friday – you choose when to complete the work. You will be expected to be proactive about asking questions and clarifying your understanding. There are lots of online resources that can be helpful. I have linked a few on our Canvas agenda homepage.

Assessments

Tests, Quizzes, Exit Tickets, Journals and presentations are chances for you to show what you have learned. Each unit will include at least one quiz and will culminate in a unit test or project. Corrections are expected to be completed after every summative assessment. Directions for completing corrections are available on Canvas. Generally, corrections will be due within two weeks of the return of an assessment.

Grading Policy:

Da Vinci uses a 40% policy for grading most assignments. This means a student earns a 40% on assignments that are not completed, rather than a zero. Da Vinci has two exceptions to this policy – plagiarism/cheating and essential summative assignments. In this class, all portfolios, projects, chapter tests, and final exams fall under the category of essential summative assignments. Other assignments, like classwork and homework will be graded according to the 40% policy.

Phone Policy:

In my class, students are not allowed to use their phones/listen to music. Everyday students are expected to collaborate with their team and being on their phone or being “plugged in” does not build a collaborative atmosphere. Students will keep their phones zipped up in their backpacks. The first time a student is seen using their phone, I will hold onto it for the rest of the period. For subsequent offenses, their phone will be sent to the office and can be retrieved at the end of the day.

Late work / Absence

Because of the collaborative nature of this class, it is important to be in class. Assignments can be turned in up to the end of each chapter. Late assignments can earn all Learning Mindset points but will lose Professionalism points. Students with excused absences have that many extra days to turn in work late without losing Professionalism points. If your student is absent, they should check the Canvas agenda to see what they are missing in class and should talk to Ms. Loomis about missed content when they return.

Extra Help:

If you are not feeling comfortable with the material or have questions, I am available at lunch or most days after school. Please check with me ahead of time for my availability. Your teammates/friends are also resources for additional help. You may also contact me by email. Other resources on campus include homework club and peer tutoring. I am here to do the best I can to support your learning in this class, as it is my hope that you will do your best to seek support when needed.

Grade Breakdown

Critical Thinking	Use higher order thinking skills including evaluation, synthesis, and problem solving. Thinking analytically and creatively, using logical reasoning, and interpreting information.	30%
Curricular Literacy	The ability to use knowledge and understanding of the concepts included in our current mathematics standards.	30%
Communication	Effectively communicate knowledge and thinking through written and oral communication by organizing and structuring ideas and using appropriate mathematical language and conventions.	15%
Learning Mindset	You will build skills through effort, practice, solicitation of feedback, and revision. You are expected to explore your mistakes and misconceptions and revise your work.	10%
Collaboration	The ability to be a productive team member of diverse teams through strong interpersonal communication, and a commitment to sharing ideas and thinking.	10%
Professionalism	Classwork, homework, and other assignments must be completed in a timely manner and kept organized in chronological order. Many times, you will be able to use your classwork on a test, so keep it handy and organized.	5%

Communication and Feedback

It is your responsibility to stay up to date on your work by regularly checking Canvas and asking questions in class. I am available to discuss any questions you may have throughout the course. Please feel free to contact me via email or stop by at lunch or after school. It is also handy to have a classmate's phone number and email as well. Remember Homework Club and Peer Tutoring are available.

I am looking forward to a great year with you!

Caroline Loomis
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