Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year at Saint Margaret's! I am so excited to welcome you to Accelerated Math. My name is Kyra McKeown, and I am very much looking forward to getting to know each student and family as we work together throughout the year. Since I am new to the Saint Margaret's Staff, I wanted to tell you a little about myself. I am a recent graduate of Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia with a degree in Elementary Education and a proud alumni of Paul VI High School. Math has always been my favorite subject throughout my time in school and I hope to instill that same passion for math in the students this year!

Within this letter, I will provide a layout of my expectations for the year, classroom rules and grading procedures. The students will be expected to adhere to rules and procedures that are centered around being respectful, being responsible and being ready to learn. Students must be respectful of the teacher and their classmates at all times. It is a privilege for these students to have been chosen to participate in the accelerated math program and disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. I will be following the same demerit system as the rest of the school as found in the handbook.

Students are also expected to be responsible for their classwork and homework. On the first day of school, students will receive a workbook (this unfortunately does not include the eighth graders), that they will be responsible for for the rest of the school year. Homework will almost always be assigned in the workbook and students will be informed if they need to bring their textbook home. Homework will be posted in two places: the homework board in the classroom and in each class' google classroom. I will put the codes for the google classrooms on my class billboard. If a student is absent, they will have one day plus however many days they were absent to complete any missing work. For example, if a student were absent for four days, then that student would have five days to complete and return their work. If a student is going on

vacation, please let me know at least one week in advance of the trip so that I can give them the work they will miss and make a plan for them to catch up. Students are expected to come to class prepared with their workbook, notebook, textbook and a pencil. Calculators will be provided if necessary for classwork. In class, the hope is that all students will participate and be engaged in the classroom discussion and put forth their best effort in all class assignments.

It is my understanding that there has been a slight change to the grading policy this year as compared to prior years. The weighting for grades will be: 50% for Tests, 30% for Quizzes, and 20% for Classwork/Homework. Each student will start out with a 100% for their homework grade and will get five points removed for each homework assignment that they do not complete. Homework will be graded for completion not accuracy, but my hope is that students will still try their best. Students will be given a test for each chapter and 2-3 quizzes per chapter. My personal philosophy is that students should not be tested on something that they did not get a chance to ask me questions about. That means that we may start new material before the quiz day to ensure that we review homework for all material that will be assessed.

In order to remain in accelerated math, students need to maintain an average of 85%. If a student goes below 85%, the student and family will be notified and the student will have a probationary period to increase their grade or be removed from the program. I will be providing tutoring after school once a week, if your child is struggling or wants to ensure their success in the course they are welcome to sign up. I will put the link on the billboard and google classroom. Students are required to sign up at least 24 hours in advance so that parents/guardians are made aware of their child's location.
My main priority is to help each student succeed and enjoy their time in accelerated math! Please never hesitate to reach out to me with any questions, concerns or information that you think would be helpful for me to know to best support your child.
I know this was a lot of information, so check the classroom billboard to see a reference sheet of everything you need to know.
My email address is kmckeown@stmargarets-rs.org.
Sincerely,
Kyra McKeown