Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am excited to teach and guide your child in GSE Geometry or GSE Accelerated Geometry B/Advanced Algebra. This year I will be using the teaching strategy of a “flipped classroom.” The basic premise of a “flipped classroom” is that what is traditionally done in class (direct instruction) becomes homework and what is traditionally done at home (practice) is now done in class.

So what does a “flipped classroom” look like? The direct instruction portion of the class will become the homework. This will be done in the form of students watching videos that are primarily created by me. What I would normally teach in class is recorded in a video and then watched by students at home. After students watch the video, they will take notes on the content and answer any questions embedded in the video. When students come to class the next day, they will have the opportunity to ask questions concerning the video. Then class time will be used for practicing the concepts from the video and participate in activities designed to enhance each student’s learning experience, increase their depth of knowledge and provide individualized help. Student learning will stilled be assessed in the form of both formative and summative assessments. In addition, there will still be outside work such as reviewing for assessments and occasionally finishing work that could not be completed in class.

**What are the benefits of a “flipped classroom”?**

1. Students will watch a video lesson created by me. The lesson will be presented in the same way that it would be presented during class. **However, students have the ability to now pause, replay, or even rewind me as many times as needed!** Each video is typically 10 minutes in length. If you include note taking and reflection, the “homework” should take students between 15 and 30 minutes.
2. Students will be able to watch videos from their smart phones, tablets, laptops, home computer, I-pads, or school computers at their convenience.
3. In a traditional model, if students have questions on practice work done at home, they have to wait until returning to school to get questions answered about the homework. In a “flipped classroom”, students are spending the majority of class time practicing in the presence of the teacher and able to get questions answered immediately. For students who may struggle, flipping the class allows them to get individualized instruction and to receive clarification of misunderstandings.
4. Learning is student centered. There is greater interaction between students and the teacher. Also, students will work in pairs or groups which will strengthen their ability to articulate and communicate math content to others. I will now have more time to work with smaller groups of students, guide learning, and make sure that practice is done correct.

On occasion, we will still have the opportunity for whole class and direct instruction. However, it will be done less frequently than typically done in a traditional class.

**What does a “flipped classroom” mean for you as a parent/guardian?**

Here is how you can help your child be successful in a flipped classroom.

1. Provide your student with a quiet place to watch the video.
2. If a computer and/or internet access is not available at home, provide your child with the time to stay after school to watch the video in the library or my classroom.
3. Watch the videos with your child so that you can learn together. This will also enable you to help your child to study for quizzes and tests.
4. Encourage your child to take notes, write questions they may have about the video lesson, and complete any exercises contained in the video. A homework grade will still be assigned based on the level of note taking and/or answering questions in the video. A homework grade of 2 (fully completed), 1 (half completed), or 0 (less than half to none completed) points will be recorded daily. At the end of the unit, the points will be totaled and converted to a percentage.

**Where do we find the video lessons?**

Videos can be found on the class website, [www.chapmanonlineclassroom.weebly.com](http://www.chapmanonlineclassroom.weebly.com) Students will then click on the tab of the class in which they are enrolled. Next, they will click on the month and then go to the current date. The video or a link will be located under that date. If students do not have access to the internet, but have a computer, they may get the videos put on a flash drive. Since the videos are online, students can use cell phones, tablets, computers (with internet access), or gaming systems to access the videos.

A “flipped classroom” flips the order of what typically takes place in a classroom. Instead of the teacher doing direct instruction in class and then practice at home, we just reverse the order, direct instruction takes place at home and practice happens in class. So students still have “math homework”, it’s just a different type of homework. I am excited that your student is able to be a part of such an exciting and incredible learning environment. If you wish to learn more, I have provided links to articles about flipping instruction.

<http://www.knewton.com/flipped-classroom-2/>

<http://jonbergmann.com/what_parents_should_know_if_their_child_is_in_a_flipped_classroom/>

If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at [achapman@cartersville.k12.ga.us](mailto:achapman@cartersville.k12.ga.us) or call at (770) 382 – 3200.

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