



# Math Times

A Quarterly Newsletter Published by the Barrett Math Department

Quarter 1 – Week 1

## Dates at a Glance

- Aug. 28 **First Number Sense Test**  
Sept. 1 *Labor Day – No School*  
Sept. 3 Back-to-School Night (6:45 – 8:30)  
Minimum Day – 11:00am dismissal  
Oct. 21 Quarter 1 Final Exam Week  
(Please check with your student’s teacher for the exact date of their final exam.)  
Oct. 24 End of Quarter 1  
Oct. 30 Quarter 1 Report Cards mailed home  
Next Issue of Math Times  
Nov. 6 Number Sense Test #2  
Nov. 12 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Bar-B-Que!

### Back-to-School Night

Thursday, September 3rd

6:45 – 8:30pm

Come meet the teachers and learn how you can help your student succeed in middle school!

## Welcome

We would like to welcome you and your student to Barrett Middle School for the 2009-2010 academic year. The Math Department is dedicated to providing a positive and productive education environment which necessitates the cooperation of students and the support of parents.

## A New Face in Math

Please welcome Sarah Nunes to the Barrett Math Department family. Ms. Nunes comes to us from Will Rogers Middle School and will be teaching Pre Algebra this year! We are excited to have her energy and enthusiasm as an addition to our Math Department.

## Textbooks

Algebra 1 and Geometry textbooks will be distributed shortly. Copies are available online in addition to a variety of other useful resources (practice tests, handouts, video tutors, etc.). More specific information will be distributed at Back-to-School Night.

Pre-Algebra textbooks are new this year and scheduled to arrive from the publisher around the end of September. In the interim, the publisher will be providing students with photocopies of the text for the first few chapters.

Replacement fees will be charged for missing, damaged and excessively worn textbooks – *so please take good care of your textbook.*

## Number Sense Test

All students enrolled in Pre-Algebra and Modified Math 6/7/8 will take the **Number Sense Test** each quarter. Those students not passing (80% or higher) at least 1 quarter may be recommended for or required to take summer school. *The first Number Sense Test is Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>.*

## Materials / Supplies

Students need to have their supplies by Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. See the Math List mailed home with the registration packets and/or provided by your student’s teacher.

## Classroom Guidelines & Homework

Due to the high number of students per teacher, it is important for students and parents to become familiar with each of their teacher’s classroom procedures and policies. Please check your student’s Classroom Guidelines for specific information.

**See Reverse for “7 Things the Barrett Math Teachers Wish Parents Knew”**

(Detach at this line and return lower portion only).

I have received and reviewed the Math Department Newsletter for Quarter 1 –Week 1. *Please return by Friday, August. 28<sup>th</sup>.*  
(Note: This is a requirement, not extra credit!)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Period

## Grading Policy

Quarter/Semester grades are based upon tests, quizzes, classwork, participation, behavior and homework. At least 65-75% (depending on course) of math grades are based on tests and quizzes per District guidelines.

Letter grades are based on the following percentages:

A	90 – 100	D	60 – 69
B	80 – 89	F	≤ 59
C	70 – 79		

### Donations:

Donations are always welcome and greatly appreciated! Kleenex, photocopy paper (green, blue, yellow, and pink), pencils, red grading pens, and pencil top erasers. ☺ *Thanks!*

## Teacher Communication

Email (or note) is the best way to reach your student's math teacher:

bdanzinger@sanjuan.edu	sarah.nunes@sanjuan.edu
josterkamp@sanjuan.edu	john.higgins@sanjuan.edu
kblodgett@sanjuan.edu	bgayek@sanjuan.edu
tthacker@sanjuan.edu	cheryl.givehchi@sanjuan.edu
aconti@sanjuan.edu	vhallberg@sanjuan.edu

**Barrett Website:** [www.sanjuan.edu/barrett](http://www.sanjuan.edu/barrett)

## 7 Things the Barrett Math Teachers Wish Parents Knew

Adapted from "7 Things Teachers Wish Parents Knew" by Lisa Collier Cool for *Good Housekeeping*, Tue Jul 21, 2009

**Okay Parents, it's time to take notes on how to help your student do their very best in math this year.**

### 1. **Attend Back-to-School Night.**

One of the most important things you can do as a parent to start the year off right is to connect with your student's teacher by attending Back-to-School Night. Learn how he/she plans to communicate with you (newsletters, websites, email, etc.) – this isn't elementary school anymore and middle school teachers have up to 165 students/families to keep informed.

### 2. **Learning doesn't stop at 2:23pm.**

Building skills in math involves practice – lots and lots of practice – which unfortunately means homework. Ask your student to show you something he/she is working on in class – it shows your student that you care about their education and it helps build confidence.

### 3. **Keep your student organized.**

We can't talk about this subject enough! Organization (or rather lack of organization) is something middle school

students can struggle with the most – which leads to big source of aggravation in classroom. ① Insist that your student record assignments and announcements in his/her planner – and check the teacher's website as a backup in case important details are missed. ② Empty the backpack daily as part of the HW routine – it is amazing how many missing assignments (or dirty PE clothes, or leftover lunch) can be found in the bottom of the bag! ③ Also, include a daily supply check and restock pencils, red grading pens, highlighters, and paper – lots and lots of paper for math! ④ Have a special folder for transporting HW and signed papers to and from school. ⑤ Organize all loose papers in a binder or accordion file. ⑥ Monitor and check the online grades and progress reports regularly! Lastly, organize & pack backpacks the night before making sure all necessary papers and supplies are included.

### 4. **Let your student make mistakes.**

Remember your student is learning. Not all HW problems have to be perfect every night – it's important that a student asks questions the following day on missed problems so that he/she can learn from his/her mistakes.

### 5. **If the teacher deserves a good grade, give him/her one.**

Teaching isn't easy – so why not email the teacher when your student enjoys a class event, says something nice about the teacher, or simply just to say thanks – we guarantee it will make our day!

### 6. **Stay involved – even when math isn't your thing.**

① For example, check student planners for assignments and help students get organized as mentioned above. ② Provide a quiet place to do HW and establish a daily routine. ③ Read your math newsletters so you know what is going on in class. ④ Talk to your student about math class. ⑤ Check to make sure your student is doing his/her HW – *all the problems including their work!* (We will check answers in class and go over questions). ⑥ Encourage students to use examples from class notes and the textbook for help with problems. ⑦ Lastly, have your student eat a healthy breakfast, bring a nutritious lunch, and ensure he/she is getting plenty of sleep – lack of any of these 3 cause a lack of focus & concentration and can lead to behavior problems.

### 7. **The teacher's on your side – give him/her the benefit of the doubt.**

Get all the facts before you react (or attack by sending the teacher a nasty email or phone message). Students at this age have a way of shifting the attention or blame on the teacher in order to refocus negative attention for something like a poor test score – when perhaps the student hasn't taken notes or completed HW in weeks but claims "he/she never taught us that." So, give your student's teacher the benefit of the doubt and ask for clarification of a situation/issue in a non-confrontational way.