**Learning is our top priority!**

Welcome to Mrs. Smoot’s class, Rough Riders!

Classroom Procedures & Expectations:

REMEMBER THE THREE P’S…BE **PREPARED**, **POSITIVE** attitude, PERFORM at your BEST!

1. **Be *in your assigned seat* (not just inside the classroom), with all necessary materials, ready to learn, when the bell rings. If you aren’t in your seat working on your bell work by the time the bell rings, you are tardy.** To maximize learning, we work from bell to bell!
2. **Contribute to the learning by being actively engaged.**
3. **Be kind and respectful.**
4. **A negative number will sometimes be the correct answer to a problem, but negative thinking or speaking will never be! Keep your thoughts and words positive! “Whether you think you can, or you think you can’t—you’re right!”—Henry Ford**
5. **You are allowed ONE hall pass per quarter. If you have a medical reason for needing more, please have your parent email me at** tsmoot@dcsd.org. **Restrooms and drinking fountains are right across the hall, so use them, if needed, *before* class.** You’re welcome to bring a water bottle (with a secure lid) to class.
6. **Work in pencil. Correct in pen. Bring your own pencil, pen, paper, interactive math notebook to class *every day*.** Calculators, rulers, protractors, mini whiteboards, doodle pens & pencils, dry erase markers, and manipulatives are available to borrow. For calculators and some other tools, you’ll be assigned a specific number and will be responsible for keeping that tool in excellent condition. To avoid being held financially responsible, report any damage/changes you notice *immediately.* ***Students will be charged the cost of replacement for any damaged learning tools.*** To prevent disruptions and wasted time, pick up your calculator *before* the bell rings.
7. **If you have a cell phone or other electronic device, keep it turned OFF and OUT OF SIGHT during class!** Phones and other devices used at inappropriate times will be taken to the office, and the office will eventually require a parent to pick up the device and pay a fine.
8. **Food and drinks are not permitted in the classroom or the math hall. Only water is allowed outside the commons area!** Gum is permitted as long as I don’t see or hear it and it is disposed of properly.
9. **Leave the classroom cleaner than you found it.** When your area is clean, tuck in your chair and stand next to it.
10. **The teacher (not the bell) excuses class.**

**Classroom Rules:** Our Classroom Rules help us implement the school Rider Pride program in our classroom.

RESPECT SELF, STAFF, PEERS, and the SCHOOL

Come PREPARED to learn in every way

POSITIVE ATTITUDE-We can do Hard Things!

PERFORM at your very BEST! (stay out of La-La Land)

**Please also remember that according to school policy, backpacks are not allowed in class.**

**Intervention Steps** (Negative Consequences): **Steps can and will be skipped if the behavior is a safety issue or a severe disruption to the learning!**

1. Informal warning. I do my best to give you the courtesy of an informal warning. If I address you by name and ask you to stop a behavior, to focus on learning, or to take action--such as moving to a different seat--please consider yourself warned.
2. Student Behavior Reflection Form followed by a Teacher/Student Conference to discuss the student’s responses on the form.
3. Parent Contact. A parent and I will discuss the student’s behavior via phone or email and develop a plan to help the student focus on learning.
4. Meet with Counselor and Behavior Contract (Counselors will contact a parent.)
5. Administrative Referral

**Positive Consequences**

* Raffle Ticket (class drawings)
* Rider Pride Card (school drawings held daily)
* Praise

**Thanks for contributing to the learning!**

* Shout-Out to Parent/Guardian

**The Grading System and Getting Help**

**Our class textbook can be accessed online at** <http://www.bigideasmath.com/>**. Click on the *Student* circle. On the left- hand side of the screen it has a drop down menu. Select *Common Core*. Then choose the *Regular Pathway* red book (for 7th grade) or blue book (for 8th grade).** Also, there are a few copies of the textbooks in the school library; these can be checked out for 2 weeks at a time.

Even though I will still enter *Recommended Practice* (RP) tasks into PowerSchool, the term grades will be determined only by *Essential Learning Outcomes* (ELO) demonstrated through unit tests. The questions on a unit test are written to gauge mastery of essential learning outcomes with several questions addressing each outcome. Each outcome will be graded as follows: *A* for eighty-five percent or more of the questions answered correctly (mastery), *B* for seventy percent or more of the questions answered correctly (nearing mastery), *C* for fifty percent or more of the questions answered correctly (average or minimally proficient), *D* for twenty-five percent or more of the questions answered correctly (nearing proficiency), *F* for less than twenty-five percent of the questions answered correctly (minimal), and *M* if no questions are answered or the test was not taken. Unit tests may be retaken (different version); however, the scores from the retake will be the recorded scores. Retakes can be done after school only *by appointment*. Appointments must be set at least one school day prior to the date of the retake. Before an appointment to retake a test can be made, students must sign and meet the stipulations of a retake contract. This includes having at least a *C* recorded in PowerSchool for each recommended practice task in the corresponding unit. Once a retake is started, it will be counted whether or not it is finished. If a student leaves the classroom during any test, then the test is finished. Each unit test may be retaken once. If a student is absent the day of a unit test, the only make- up allowed will be the retake test following retake procedures; however, the student may take the first version of the test for practice before scheduling a retake. Students who plan to complete a test retake should use time before and after school to study and ask questions in order to gain a better understanding of concepts prior to obtaining an appointment for the retake. **All test retakes must be completed no later than two school days before the quarter ends.** Occasions may arise when the instructor will need to modify this deadline; however, students will be notified and reminded well in advance. Final grades for each term will follow the Roosevelt Junior High School grading scale.

Recommended practice tasks will be scored as follows: *A* for correct work of at least eighty-five percent (mastery), *B* for correct work of at least seventy percent (nearing mastery), *C* for correct work of at least fifty percent (average or minimally proficient), *D* for correct work of at least twenty-five percent (nearing proficiency), *F* for correct work of at least ten percent (minimal), and *M* for missing tasks or work that is less than ten percent correct. It is **important for students to remember** that even though recommended practice tasks do not average into the final term grade, they still constitute a crucial part of learning and progress towards mastery of the associated learning outcomes. Therefore, students should strive to complete each practice task to the best of their abilities. Extra help will be available before and after school. Students cannot schedule test retakes unless they have at least a *C* recorded in PowerSchool for each practice task in the corresponding units.

**Interactive Math Notebook: You will be required to have a math notebook that will be kept and used for several different activities in the classroom. It must be a Composition Notebook. Math 8 must be graph ruled. Any rule is fine for Math 7. You may purchase one on your own, or I have them available to purchase, before or after class during the first week of school, for $1.**

Help Sessions: I am available before school from 7:30-8:00a.m Tuesday, and Thursday. I will also be a part of an afterschool program with help available Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30-4:30.

Missed Work: If you miss class, catch up as soon as possible. Most assignments can be printed from my website:

***To print missing assignments, visit my website:***

***http://mrs-smoot.weebly.com***

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Phew! That was a LOT of information! I want to make sure you know exactly what is expected of you, so please let me know if you have any questions! KEEP the first two pages of your syllabus where you can find them and refer to them, unless, of course, you already have it memorized ;) Return JUST THIS PAGE to Mrs. Smoot by August 30, 2017, for TWO raffle tickets!

I have read Mrs. Smoot’s lengthy syllabus and understand what is expected of me:

 (Student signature) Date

My student has read Mrs. Smoot’s lengthy syllabus and knows what is expected of him/her. My student will keep the syllabus in case we need to refer to it in the future:

(Parent signature) Date

Parents, *please* contact me *any time* you have a question or concern. No concern is too small! – tsmoot@dscd.org

Please provide your contact information below so that I can contact you if I have a concern about your student or to give your student a shout-out for being exceptionally awesome!

Parent name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent phone number(s):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Preferred method of contact (Circle one or more): Email Phone