Dear Parents:

I am pleased to have your child in my mathematics class at Barack Obama Academy of International Studies. In order for each student to have a successful year in math class, he/she will need to do the following:

- Be punctual and prepared. Bring all materials (math binder and notebook, paper, pencils and agenda book) to class every day.
- Record all assignments in the agenda book.
- Complete all classwork and homework assignments on time.
- Keep math binder up to date and well-organized.
- Participate in class every day.
- Behave appropriately at all times. (Adhere to Pittsburgh Obama and PPS policies)

I am asking that your child obtain the following materials:

- Binder, 1-2 inch
- Lined paper
- Composition notebook
- Pencil

Useful, but not required:

- Markers, colored pencils
- TI 30 XIIS scientific calculator
- Graph paper
- Reinforcement holes

The Grade 8 Mathematics curriculum is designed to build students’ conceptual and skill development in algebraic reasoning and concepts as well as number sense, geometry, statistics and probability. The year is divided into 7 units with each unit developing a major concept. Each unit, in turn, is developed around a series of investigations which are designed around real situations that students must interpret and solve. Throughout the year I will employ a variety of strategies to engage your student such as: whole class lecture, small group activities, independent projects and inquiry-based learning. Students must observe patterns and relationships, conjecture, test, discuss, verbalize and generalize. Students are expected to reflect and communicate their problem solving methods on a regular basis.

Your child will be graded according to the following policy:

Tests/Quizzes 25%
Participation 20%
Homework 10%
Classwork 25%
Writing 20%

Assessments will include mathematical reflections, tests and quizzes, projects, homework, class assignments and notebook entries. Selected assessments will be graded utilizing the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme Assessment Criteria: Knowing and Understanding, Investigating Patterns, Communicating, and Applying Mathematics in Real-Life Contexts. Grading rubrics based on these criteria will be given to students prior to the assignment.

You should expect your child to have math homework 4 days a week. There will be no opportunities for extra credit work and late assignments will receive half credit.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at school (412) 529-2263, cell (412) 973-6590 or email sberry2@pghboe.net. I look forward to working with your child this year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Berry

Approved ________________________