Why is it important that my students are successful in this class?

Middle school is a time when students are developing a sense of who they are as a person, and as a scholar as well. Many students decide in middle school that they do not like math, or are not good at math. This can impact their lives in many ways such as; their attitude about school, their grades, their career options, and their self-esteem. Students who develop a deep conceptual understanding of the math content, and dedicate themselves to persevere through challenging problems will be more likely to be successful as a scholar, and will thus have more opportunities in life.

Qualitative Goals:

* Students will leave my classroom with a renewed confidence in themselves and their academic abilities.
* Students will feel prepared for high school math and will be excited about their transition.
* Students will develop a deep conceptual understanding of all content taught.
* Students will know that I care about them, and their success now and in the future.
* Students are eager to go to college, and feel as though this is an attainable goal to have.
* Students will show respect for themselves as well as for the other students and adults in the classroom at all times.
* Students will be motivated by rigorous assignments, and will persevere even when they are struggling.
* Students will be competitive with their counterparts across the nation.

Quantitative Goals:

* My class will average at least 80% on every assessment and exit slip.
* My students will master at least 80% of rigorous grade-level content.
* 100% of students will meet standards on the CRCT, and 70% will exceed standards.
* 100% of students will be promoted to the next grade level
* 100% of students will say that they “strongly agree” or “agree” that I care about them and their success in the future on their end of course survey.
* 100% of students will say that they “strongly agree” or “agree” that they will likely go to college when they graduate from high school on the end-of-course survey.

Traits and Mindsets that will lead my students to success:

* Understanding value of education, and how education can change the quality of their life.
* Understanding the importance of math, and the career paths a strong education in math can lead to.
* Communicating effectively with each other and their teachers in a respectful way.
* Becoming their own advocates, and understanding how to effectively advocate for themselves.
* Setting goals and monitoring their progress toward reaching their goals.
* Staying organized and meeting deadlines.
* Taking responsibility for their actions or lack of actions.
* Developing strong leadership qualities and learning the value of leadership.
* Thinking critically about various topics, and being able to justify their viewpoints.
* Learning to understand and accept others’ perspectives or opinions.
* The ability to work independently on a task and make their own decisions regarding that task.
* Develop effective study-habit skills.
* Identify their weaknesses and track their progress in improving these weaknesses.
* Being reflective and becoming proactive rather than reactive.

Pathways to Expand The Students’ Opportunities: While I personally will not be able to provide my students with these opportunities, I know that these are things that they should be exposed to as they move through high school in order to increase opportunities. It is important that I make my students aware of these opportunities, and encourage them to seek out such opportunities.

* Internships or part-time jobs
* Volunteer opportunities
* Mentor Programs
* College tours
* Career fairs or discussions

What will it mean for my students when we are successful at reaching our classroom vision?

* Increased confidence and self-esteem.
* Better grades in high school math classes and higher GPA.
* Knowing that they can have the opportunity to go to college, and be successful in a career.
* More appreciation for math and an understanding of its importance.
* Better study-habits, communication skills, leadership, and accountability.
* Feeling of security and knowing that they are supported by their classmates and teachers.
* Higher expectations for themselves.