Fall 2009 Laurel Langford laurel.langford@uwrf.edu http://langfordmath.com/

Office hours (getting help): I will be available in my office (206F NH; office phone 425-3119) MWF 11:00-12:30. I am around a lot during the day when I am not in class, and I am (almost) always happy to see you (it is a good idea to make an appointment if you are able to plan ahead). A more complete version of my schedule can be found at the schedule link from my homepage.

Announcements, schedules, assignments and review sheets are posted on my web site. (also any revisions to the syllabus). I will be posting your scores on D2L. Occasionally there are problems with the gradebook (both human and machine errors). Please save all of your work from this class until after you have checked your grades to make sure I have scores recorded

Topics :

Sets and Geometry Whole number concepts and operations Algebraic reasoning

Supplies: We have a fairly complete set of supplies in the classroom, but you will need to have the following at home to do some of your assignments: Scissors, tape, colored pencils (or similar), and a ruler. You will also need a calculator occasionally, and you should bring it to class.

Grading: Your grade will be based primarily on your scores on homework, projects, quizzes and tests. Homework will count as 20% of your grade. Your grade will be based on your weighted average (mean). Letter grades will be at least as high as those determined by:

A: 93-100%	A-: 90-92%	B+: 87-89%	B: 83-86%	B-: 80-82%
C+: 77-79%	C: 73-76% C-: 70	-72% D+:	67-69%	D: 60-66%

<u>Homework</u>: There will be frequent homework problems. You are encouraged to study together, but each person should write up his/her work independently so that the work you submit reflects your understanding of the problem. Computer labs that are turned in to be graded will be counted in the homework category

<u>Quizzes</u> There will be take-home quizzes between exams. Quizzes are generally worth about 50 points.

<u>Tests</u>: Tests are generally worth about 100 points, and are given in class. I expect to give 2-3 in class tests, and a 150-200 points (comprehensive) final exam. Please talk to me in advance if you have special needs for test taking.

<u>Class Participation</u> I may (or may not) award some points for class participation. I see this as my opportunity to reward students who perform particularly well in class. Class participation partly consists of being in class, working with your group, staying

on task during activity time, and being respectful during class discussion times. It also includes sharing good questions, good ideas, and good explanations during class discussions.

<u>Attendance:</u> I do a lot of things that are not in the book, and the only way to get the information is to be in class. I expect you to be near perfect in being in class on time every class period. If you are absent or tardy enough for me to be concerned, I will give you one warning, after which I will file a dispositions concern report with the College of Education.

Late work: If you are absent and therefore your work is late for an excused absence (circumstances beyond your control: illness, car in need of towing on the way to class, etc), and you have documentation verifying the reason for the absence, then the lateness of the homework is also excused. If you are turning in homework late for any other reason, it may be turned in up to one week late, but a 25% penalty applies to your score on that item. If you contact me promptly (within 24 hours), and complete the make up work in a timely manner as agreed upon with me, this same policy can be applied to a test or quiz.

Teacher Content Standards: The College of Arts and Sciences has a webpage that links you to the teacher content standards by course number. "DPI CONTENT STANDARDS: The State of Wisconsin has established content standards that education programs are required to have in their courses. These standards are the basis of the Praxis II Content exams that all licensure candidates are required to pass prior to receiving a license to teach in Wisconsin." Linked by course number from this page: www.uwrf.edu/cas/AppC/A&SWeb/Math_appC.php

Students with disabilities "The University of Wisconsin-River Falls welcomes students with disabilities into its educational programs, activities, residential halls, and everything else it offers. Those who'll need academic adjustments or accommodations for a disability should contact the Disability Services Office (105 Davee Library; 715-425-3531). Decisions to allow adjustments and accommodations are made on the basis of clinical documentation the students provide to sufficiently indicate the nature of their situation. Additional information is at: http://www.uwrf.edu/disabilityservices/ADA.html."

You can do it: A lot of people who take this class don't have a strong background in math. A lot of people struggle, and need support. I have seen people with very weak math backgrounds succeed because they worked hard and used their resources wisely. I can be a good resource. Your classmates are good resources. If you need extra support, make sure you take advantage of my office hours and study time with your friends. This class is designed to tackle the most important topics for elementary teachers to know in math; a lot of the things you will be doing and learning about in this class will be important for you and for your students when you start teaching. You can do it!