

Algebra A

Course Information

Mrs. Piano

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Google Classroom code: 5yoz7pj

Course Description

Algebra A is the first year of a two year course. Next year students will take the Algebra I Regents exam after completing Algebra B. The curriculum for both courses is similar, but the Algebra A course will not go into as much depth. Topics include algebraic expressions, equations and inequalities, systems of equations and inequalities, graphing functions, and operations with polynomials. All of the skills learned in this course give students a good foundation to prepare for next year's course that ends in the Regents exam, which is required for graduation.

Supplies

- folder or small binder
- pencils and erasers
- scientific calculator (recommended Texas Instruments TI 30X IIS)
- optional: graphing calculator (recommended Texas Instruments TI 83+ or TI 84+)

Grading

Classwork/Homework counts as 50% of the marking period grade, and Tests/Quizzes make up the other 50%. Within each category, grades are calculated using the “total points” system. Below is an example of how this works:

Assignment	Grade
signature on syllabus	5/5
page 34 #1-10	4/5
page 35 #1-5	5/5
page 36 #1-10	2/5
Unit 1 Quiz	24/30
page 37 #1-10	5/5
page 38 #1-15	3/5
Unit 1 Test	52/70

This student earned 24 out of the possible 30 points on classwork/homework and 76 out of the possible 100 points on tests/quizzes.

$24 \div 30 = 0.8 = 80\%$ for the classwork/homework average

$76 \div 100 = 0.76 = 76\%$ for the tests/quizzes average

The category grades are then averaged, which is 78%.

Classwork/Homework

Homework will be assigned almost every day, and students will do a lot of in-class work as well. Most of these assignments will be checked for effort, completion, and work shown and will be given a grade between 0 and 5. Because we typically go over the homework at the beginning of class, these assignments will NOT be accepted late, however, the lowest 5 grades for the marking period will be dropped, so there is some flexibility in case the homework cannot be completed.

Sometimes students will be required to hand in assignments, either on paper or digitally. Some assignments will have built-in “freebies” so that a student can earn full credit even if not all questions are answered correctly. Each graded assignment will have a final due date after which late submissions will not be accepted. If answers have been posted online or given in class, students may not have the option to make up that assignment.

In addition to in-class assignments and homework, each student will be expected to actively participate in class. This includes asking and answering questions as well as working individually and/or as part of a team for different tasks or activities.

Quizzes and Tests

Quizzes may be given midway through units, depending on the length of the unit. Tests will be given only at the end of units and will always be announced at least a week ahead of time. Students will sometimes have the option to do extra credit work to bring up low scores.

Absences

In the event of an absence from class, students must still do their work utilizing what is posted on Google Classroom. Students are encouraged to stay for Activity Period to get help. The official school policy is students have one day to make up work for every one day that they are absent. This policy is flexible, however, to avoid getting behind, they should do their work as soon as possible. For a complete description of the school policy for student absences, see the student/parent handbook.

Typical Daily Schedule

Here is a tentative schedule of what a typical class will look like:

- Questions/discussion about previous day’s homework (10 minutes)
- Lesson/notes on new material (15 minutes)
- Classwork / time to start homework / individual help (15 minutes)

Classroom Expectations

- Be on time.
 - If you are late, please bring a pass.
 - You will receive a detention after being late 3 times without a pass.
 - You will only be allowed to leave class during appropriate times by signing out and taking the pass with you.

- Be prepared.
 - Bring all materials to class.
 - Make sure your Chromebook is charged.
 - Homework must be completed.
 - As soon as you get to class, read the agenda and make sure you're ready to get started.

- Be respectful.
 - Put your cell phone away.
 - Raise your hand if you have a relevant question/comment.
 - No put-downs or foul language.
 - Keep your hands and feet to yourself.
 - Pick up after yourself.
 - Obey all school rules.
 - The teacher dismisses you, not the bell.

Parents/Guardians: please sign below indicating that you have reviewed the syllabus with your child. Your signature will count as a homework grade.
