

**Algebra 1**  
**Course Expectations 2022-2023**  
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**Welcome to Algebra 1!** In this class, you will:

- Develop your understanding of the abstract mathematical concepts in algebra
- Improve your ability to think and problem solve like a mathematician
- Become more confident and a stronger collaborator and communicator
- Prepare for Upper School math and the additional responsibility and freedom that comes with being an Upper School student
- Have fun

**Materials:**

- Texts:
  - enVision Algebra 1, Savvas Learning Company
  - The Boys' Latin onCampus website
- Algebra 1 workbook
- Touchscreen computer (laptop or Chromebook) with stylus
- 3 ring binder and dividers
- Loose-leaf and graph paper
- Straight edge (e.g. a ruler)
- Sharpened pencils and erasers

**During Class:**

Class time is almost always spent working with others to solve problems and figure out new mathematical relationships. The following things will help you get the most out of class and help us build an awesome community:

- Stick with hard things and look for opportunities to stretch and challenge yourself
- Take risks and share ideas, even when you're not sure that you're right
- Listen and build on others' ideas, poke holes in others' reasoning, include and support your peers, and appreciate your own and others' brilliance
- Come to class on time and with all materials, stay focused and productive during class

*Which of these do you think will be the hardest for you to do? Why do you think that?*

*Which of these do you think will be the easiest for you to do? Why do you think that?*

### **Check Your Understanding:**

You will have “Check Your Understanding” problems to do every day. Some days there will be time in class to work on them and sometimes these will become homework. In most schools Algebra 1 is the first course in a student's high school math coursework. As such, and in alignment with many BL Upper School math courses, Check Your Understanding is not graded in this course. Although it is not graded, it is **not optional**; you will not be able to master the material unless you do the Check Your Understanding. You will, however, have the opportunity to pick the problems that you think will help you check your understanding of what we learned in class. Also, you should aim to do problems each week that stretch you - getting stuck and thinking hard about things is how you learn!

*How do you feel about having choice when doing your classwork/homework?*

I will give you the answers to check with after you finish, and we will also have time in class to discuss problems and revise mistakes. As you do your homework, circle problems that you couldn't revise on your own, have a question about, want to discuss in class, or meet with me about outside of class.

*Why do you think I give you the answers to the homework problems? Why did I say that you should check the answers after you finish working?*

### **Grading Policy:**

- Mastery based grading (also known as standards based grading) is used in this course. In mastery based grading, each unit of study is broken down into smaller learning targets. Each target is a teachable concept that students should master during the course. Rubrics are used to assess students' mastery of learning targets, which are then consolidated into a percentage grade for the unit.
- There are ample opportunities to demonstrate mastery. In addition to tests and quizzes, students are able to retake assessments and complete problems outside of tests/quizzes.

*What goal do you have for yourself in this class right now? What are two (or more) things that I can do to help you reach your goal?*

**Effort Grades:**

Effort grades reflect the student’s general dedication to the class. They are determined based on preparedness, attentiveness, class participation, behavior, and dedication to working hard.

*Do you think effort grades are important? Why do you think that?*

**Mathematics Department Policy**

Students must attain a **minimum FINAL grade of 65%** as well as a **minimum EXAM grade of 65%**. If a student does not reach either or both of these minimum expectations, he will be required to complete summer remediation work before moving on to the next mathematics course at Boys' Latin.

I have read and agree to the above class expectations, and I have answered the questions.

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Student

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Parent