

Welcome to Algebra!

“Math, you see, is not a spectator sport. To understand mathematics means to be able to do mathematics. And what does it mean doing math? In the first place it means to be able to solve mathematical problems.” George Polya (1887-1985)

The following information will help you understand how this course is organized, how you will be graded, and how you can succeed in this math class.

Textbook: California Algebra 1, published by McDougal Littell.

Math online program: ALEKS (weekly homework: 8 or more topics completed and 60 to 90 minutes)

Classroom expectations:

1. Be kind and polite to ALL (fellow students, teacher, and guests).
2. Do not talk while the teacher is giving instructions.
3. All the talk that is done during group work should be related to math.
4. Come to class on time and be prepared to learn.
5. Be responsible for your learning:
 - a. Participate in class.
 - b. Take notes.
 - c. Study for tests.
 - d. Complete all work. Put your best into it!
6. Listen when someone else is talking. Wait for your turn.
7. Follow directions the first time they are given.
8. Take good care of all materials entrusted to you.
9. Keep this room clean; it belongs to you.
10. Follow all other rules presented in your Student Handbook.

Consequences:

1. Silent warning (eye contact).
2. Verbal warning.
3. Meeting with teacher at lunch. Parent contact.
4. New seating.
5. Loss of points; it affects citizenship grade.
6. Parent, student, teacher, principal conference.

Our Goals:

1. To create a safe environment where all students have fun learning.
2. To find the real world applications for Algebra.
3. To be well prepared for the High School Math courses.

Grades:

Tests, projects and quizzes will represent 40% of your grade.

Homework and classwork are each 30% of the grade.

Scale: A (100-93), A- (92-90), B+(89-87), B (86-83), B- (82-80), C+(79-77), C (76-73), C- (72-70), D+ (69-67), D (66-63), D- (62-60), F (less than 60).

Classwork and homework policy:

Math is learned by solving problems. There is no other way around!

“There is no such thing as a long piece of work, except one that you dare not start.” Charles Baudelaire

Tips for success with classwork:

- Show up to class! It is better to work together during class time.
- Respect individual, quiet “think time”.
- Keep an organized binder or/and notebook: notes section, homework section, classwork section, projects section and tests/quizzes section.
- Be engaged in class! Copy the notes and examples, work on problems, share strategies with your peers, ask questions, help with the answers, ask for extra credit!
- Classwork is due at the end of the period.

Tips for success with homework:

- Homework is usually assigned Monday through Thursday.
- Homework is due at the beginning of the period.
- Homework is due the following day unless student is absent from school.
- Projects will be given more time.
- If you need help with homework, be proactive: look over the sample problems, check the online tutor from the **classzone** page (McDougall Littell, website) or other online math resources: **Aleks, Kahn Academy**, and come to see me during office hours, at lunch time or afterschool by appointment.

Tips for success with tests and quizzes:

There will be a test or a quiz every week, usually on Fridays. Good study skills will help you score well on these evaluations. Good study skills include: studying the notes, looking up the lesson in the textbook, reflecting on the concepts learned in class, coming up with new questions, asking those questions in class, going over the examples of problems presented in class, etc. These are just a few examples of good study skills. If you struggle in this area, please come and talk to me about it.

Office hours:

Thursdays and Fridays from 2:50 to 3:20 p.m. I am available during other hours and days by appointment.

Math students do not forget:

- Each math class builds on the previous ones. It is your responsibility to keep up with daily instruction by reading the lesson from the textbook, preparing notes, looking up the sample problems, contacting me with your questions, having a parent/guardian come to school to collect the work, etc. Falling a day behind puts in you disadvantage, falling a week behind puts you in serious trouble.
- Please seek help when you need it. Do not wait! I am here to help you succeed! Let me know!

Tardiness:

If you are tardy to first period, go directly to the office and get a tardy pass. If you are tardy to any other period, come to class and quietly sit down. You will have to talk to me at the end of the period about your tardiness. There are consequences for unexcused tardiness. Read the Student Handbook.

Thank you for taking the time to read this material.

Ms. Nefian

Student's Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Contact information: _____

