

Pre-Algebra Honors Course Information

Ms. Ku

Team 7D

The Pre-Algebra Honors course moves at a rigorous pace as it prepares students with the foundation of skills needed for entry into the eighth-grade Algebra I Honors course. Mastery of many basic skills (such as decimal and fraction operations) is assumed as these topics will be extended to higher levels. While some units will be new material for the students others will be familiar topics that will be explored in greater depth than in previous grades. The topics listed below will be introduced, reinforced and then used continuously throughout the year as skills are combined and extended.

*Please keep in mind that the seventh grade Pre-Algebra textbook is only a basis for the curriculum which will be supplemented with additional challenging and enriching material. The students will rely on their class notes and materials given in class to determine the skills and concepts for which they are responsible.

Unit Topics: (in approximate order)

- Algebraic Expressions, Equations & Inequalities—introduced early and expanded upon in every chapter
- Integer Operations (positive and negative numbers)
- Decimal Operations and Equations (including positive/negative)
- Fraction Operations and Equations (including positive/negative)
- Ratio, Proportion, Percent
- Applications of Percent
- Geometric Concepts
- Area, Volume, Surface Area
- Square Roots and Pythagorean Theorem
- Graphing Linear Equations
- Data Analysis and Probability
- Problem Solving Strategies (practiced throughout the year)



The following is some pertinent information about my class procedures. Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns via email: brittany.ku@ww.p.org

Tests/Quizzes

Generally there will be one announced quiz or test each week in Pre-Algebra Honors. There will also be frequent, smaller “warm-up quizzes”, which may or may not be announced. These are meant to be checks for the students and teacher to monitor skill progress.

Pre-Algebra textbook online

The Pre-Algebra textbook from Prentice Hall is available online on the publisher’s website. The students will be given a user name and password for online access. The online book has tutorial videos, quizzes and extra practice sheets available. More information regarding the useful features of the online textbook will be coming soon.

Homework

- Pre-algebra homework provides valuable reinforcement of skills and concepts taught in class and therefore it is given most every night.
- Pre-algebra assignments are due the next class day, unless otherwise noted.
- Full credit is given for assignments that are on time, complete with work shown, and done in pencil. No credit is given for late work.
- There is no penalty for errors made on homework assignments. Homework is a chance to practice skills in a risk-free setting.
- Students are responsible for correcting their own homework with answer keys provided each day in class. The work is spot-checked for credit by the teacher.
- During the homework check, students are encouraged to ask questions whenever needed in order to help clarify their understanding.
- Pre-algebra assignments should not take longer than 20-25 minutes to complete. If the time spent is repeatedly exceeding 40 minutes please let me know.

Grading Scale

Homework: 15%

Assessments/ Other: 85%

Grades will be updated on Infinite Campus weekly.

Flex period

Students are encouraged to take advantage of Flex time to seek help on homework assignments or for assistance in preparing for a quizzes or tests. At times, pre-algebra review sessions will be offered during Flex periods.

Study Skills

Students are expected to maintain all materials in their pre-algebra binder in chronological order. The class notes and homework assignments are the students' primary resource for course material. The following is a list of study skills that will be fostered this year in class. Parental support is appreciated in monitoring these techniques at home.

- Read class notes before beginning homework.
- Call a Homework Buddy if clarification is needed on an assignment.
- Ask someone at home to help with completing or checking work.
- Several days prior to a quiz or test, create a practice test by copying three problems from each note page and homework assignment, then redo the problems and check answers.
- Seek assistance in Flex period.

Many students are unaccustomed to the idea of “studying” math. While reading the class notes before a test is useful, this technique needs to be augmented with the more active approach of doing practice problems.

Thanks in advance for your support. I am looking forward to a successful year!

Brittany Ku