

# **New Paltz Central High School**

New Paltz Central School District 196 Main Street, New Paltz, New York 12561

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## ***Welcome to Algebra 1***

**Ms. Kathryn Stewart**

**Math Office (room 214A)**

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***Please feel free to come after school (in room 201 or 214A) or e-mail anytime if you have questions.***

*Algebra 1* is a year-long course that focuses on problem solving and critical thinking, algebraic expressions and equations, functions and modeling, and descriptive statistics. This is the first course of the new New York State Common Core curriculum, which is directly aligned with the Common Core Learning Standards (Mathematics: Standards for Mathematical Practice). Students will take the *Algebra 1 Regents* on June 3, 2014.

### **Curriculum Units of Study:**

- **Relationships between quantities and reasoning with equations and their graphs**
- **Descriptive statistics**
- **Linear and exponential functions**
- **Polynomial and quadratic expressions, equations and functions**
- **A synthesis of modeling with equations and functions**

### **Materials Needed**

- Graphing calculator ( TI-84 plus, TI-84 or TI-83)
- 2 inch 3-ring binder (dividers with pockets would be helpful)
- plenty of lined loose-leaf paper
- pencils

### **Grading**

Your quarter average can be determined at any time by adding up the number of points earned and dividing it by the total number of possible points. Look below to see how points are earned.

**Daily Check: 5 points**

A short daily quiz will be given each day in class. This daily check will be based on the homework and/or material from the previous class. You are encouraged to use your completed homework to help you do well on the daily check. Your completed homework gives you 1 point towards the total 5 points. Each quarter, three to four of your lowest daily check grades will be dropped. If you miss a daily check due to an absence, you may make up the daily check as long as you make it up before the next class. If not, a missed daily check will be dropped as one of the dropped checks each quarter.

**Homework** will be given on a daily basis. Sometimes homework will be a set of problems or a challenge question or a video tutorial for you to watch. When problems are assigned, you will find selected solutions and answers on my website. You are expected to do the homework and check the solutions as you work. If you get stuck on a problem, work through the solution to see if you can figure it out that way. If you have questions on homework problems, come work with me after school. If you spend more than 30 focused minutes doing a regular homework assignment, stop and let Ms. Stewart know!

**Class Work: 2 to 10 points**

Some of the problems and activities that we do during class will be collected and graded. Some of these problems will be kept in a student portfolio that we will develop and reflect on as the year progresses.

**Projects, Quizzes, and Tests: 20 to 100 points**

There are usually 4 or 5 tests, quizzes, and/or projects per quarter. If you miss a test due to an absence, you will be expected to take the test the class you return. Use the website to work on practice materials and sample tests and to watch helpful videos.

**Other Important Info****Missing Class:**

If you miss class, you are expected to look on my website to see what work you missed. You are also encouraged to come find me before the next class, either after school or during the day, to learn any new material we covered and to be prepared for the next daily check.

**After-School Help:**

Please come after school anytime if you have questions or need help on anything. You can find me in the math office (room 214A) or in room 201 after school everyday. I am often here until the cows come home, so drop by anytime. You may also reach me through e-mail at [kstewart@newpaltz.k12.ny.us](mailto:kstewart@newpaltz.k12.ny.us).

**Webpage:**

I will post all assignments, solutions to homework questions, and announce upcoming tests and projects on my school webpage, so check that regularly. In addition, I post videos, test reviews with solutions, and extra practice problems that can help you at home.

***Let's work together to make this a productive year for all of us!***