

Ms. Tuckman 8th Grade Pre-Algebra

Boston Collegiate Charter School 2011-2012-Course Description

➤ **Introduction**

Welcome to Pre-Algebra. You have stepped into a world of patterns, sequences, variables, rules, puzzles, critical thinking, and problem solving—the world of mathematics! Together we will redefine what it means to learn and do mathematics while investigating ways in which mathematics can be used to analyze and change the world. This course will be conducted with the goal of preparing you to enter Algebra I in the 9th grade. You will also spend time preparing for the MCAS exam, which takes place in May.

➤ **Course Overview**

Semester 1

Unit 1(Part 1): Order of operations/integers

Unit 1(Part 2): Rational numbers

Unit 2: Variables, expressions

Unit 3: Linear equations, GNAW

Unit 4: Ratios, proportions

Semester 2

Unit 5: Statistics, probability

Unit 6: 2-D Geometry

Unit 7: 3-D Geometry

Unit 8: MCAS 80%

Unit 9: Introduction to Polynomials

➤ **Accountability**

Every quarter grade will be calculated using the following weights:

- Major Assessments —30%
 - This includes everything from individual unit tests to long-term assignments.
- Minor Assessments —30%
 - This includes group challenges, class presentations, binder checks and projects. Don't worry: Traditional paper and pencil tests will not comprise the majority of this grade!
- Classwork—10%
 - You will receive 10 points per day (see below) based on individual responsibility in the classroom.
- Homework—15%
 - You will have approximately 30 minutes of homework every night that will review and strengthen the concepts and procedures you discover in class.
- Math II—15%
 - This includes all of the classwork and homework from your Math II class.

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following percents:

A: 90-100%

B: 80-89.9%

C: 70-79.9%

F: 0-69.9%

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➤ **Homework**

Homework will be assigned nightly and be due in Morning Advisory the next day. Some homework assignments are harder than others, but you must try your very best. Each homework assignment will be worth 10 points. **You must show your work neatly.** You may work with a classmate, but copying is cheating. Assignments without names are not given credit, and late assignments are not accepted. A check plus is worth 10 points, a check is worth 8 points, a check minus is worth 6 points and a 'PQ' means the homework is of poor quality and you will be put on the afterschool list.

➤ **Groupwork**

Since learning with other people can be more effective, you will often explore pre-algebra in groups or pairs and help each other generalize, justify, and come to conclusions about mathematical ideas. You will often be given roles within these groups. Through the roles and a set of group norms, you will work as a team to better understand math in multiple ways.

➤ **Class Procedures**

Entering Class

Enter the classroom silently and sit in your assigned seat. Each day you should have 5 items with you:

- 1) Your organized binder (open to the 'Do Now' section)
- 2) Your sharpened pencil or mechanical pencil (I sell them for \$.25 before 7:45am)
- 3) Your graph paper

Exiting Class

My goal is to finish the agenda before the bell rings. You may not begin packing up until everyone has written down the homework all materials have been cleaned up. You exit the classroom when I dismiss you, not when the bell rings.

➤ **Binder**

You will be asked to keep an organized binder with 5 sections. Those 5 sections include:

- 1) Do Now
- 2) Classwork
- 3) Homework
- 4) Assessments (tests and quizzes)
- 5) Toolkit Vocabulary

You are expected to bring your binder with you each day

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➤ **Daily Points**

You can earn a maximum of 20 points per day (10 classwork/10 homework):

- Classwork (10 points)
 - 10 points for the following: helping your group members, asking questions, defending your ideas, engaging deeply with the mathematics, completing the expected assignments, completing the 'Do Now', bringing all materials
- Homework (10 points)
 - 10 points for a check plus on a homework assignment

Please feel free to email me at ltuckman@bostoncollegiate.org

or call me at 617-265-1172 x 242 with any questions or concerns

(KEEP THIS TOP PART)

(HAND THIS PART BACK INTO MS. TUCKMAN)

I have read and understood the course grading policy.

Student name: _____

Student signature: _____

Parent/guardian/care-giver name: _____

Parent/guardian/care-giver signature: _____

The signed Course Description must be returned to Ms. Tuckman tomorrow!