

“It’s not that I’m so smart, it’s just that I stay with problems longer.”

-Albert Einstein

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Tutoring: Tuesdays and Thursday, 3-4 p.m.

COURSE OVERVIEW

The Algebra I course is designed as an extension of the Pre-Algebra class and as a full-year, in depth treatment of basic Algebra and numeracy. These solid Algebra skills are the basis of all higher Mathematics and Physics. A strong foundation in number operations, equations, functions, and data analysis is paramount to a successful understanding of subsequent 10th and 11th grade math courses and cross-subject applications in physics, biology, and chemistry.

The first semester will begin with a review of basic operations, skills, and procedures. We will quickly proceed to Algebra I topics and concentrate on the rudiments of manipulating equations, mathematic properties, and defining and working for fluency in discussing the elements of number sentences and equations. The class will spend a significant amount of time with linear equations during the second quarter with an emphasis on graphing functions. The third quarter will bring us to a discussion of data analysis and the use of algebra and graphing to represent and interpret data. Our focus in the fourth quarter will be on polynomials, quadratic functions, and their application in real-world problems.

Algebra I is a course for which daily practice is vital to a student’s success. Students will need to practice every night and students and parents alike should feel free to call Ms. Zern with questions at any time.

TOPIC OVERVIEW

- Unit 1: The Language of Algebra
- Unit 2: Real Numbers
- Unit 3: Solving Linear Equations
- Unit 4: Graphing Relations and Functions
- Unit 5: Analyzing Linear Equations
- Unit 6: Solving Systems of Linear Equations and Inequalities
- Unit 7: Polynomials
- Unit 8: Factoring
- Unit 9: Quadratic and Exponential Functions

MATERIALS/SUPPLIES

- *Algebra 1. Glencoe/McGraw Hill Inc.* Westerville, Ohio. 2005
- Binder with loose leaf paper and graph paper
- Pencils
- At least a TI-83 graphing calculator (by September 6)

You are expected to bring all your materials to class every day. Failure to do so will result in demerits.

YEARLY GRADE BREAKDOWN

Q1	Q2	Mid-term	Q3	Q4	Final
21.25%	21.25%	5%	21.25%	21.25%	10%

GRADING POLICY (PER QUARTER)

- 35% Tests
- 25% Quizzes
- 20% Homework
- 20% Classwork (Do Now's, classwork, participation)

Tests and quizzes are worth 60% of the quarter grade. There will be only 2 - 3 exams per quarter. The infrequency of the exams makes it extremely important to prepare well.

Test revisions will not be added to your test average. This is to keep the tests category a true reflection of your mastery of the material. Rather, these corrections will be put into the quiz or classwork category.

Quizzes will consist of any assessment that is not an exam. They will vary in length and relative weight, and should be expected daily announced or unannounced. There will be **no quiz corrections**. This means that test grades will have a heavy impact on your grade.

MIDTERM AND FINAL

In addition, there will be a mid term and final exam in the course, which, combined, are worth 15% of the final grade. Each exam will be a cumulative assessment of the material taught in the course until that point.

HOMEWORK POLICY

No late homework will be accepted. If a student is absent, he/she must turn in the homework the day he/she returns to school to receive full credit. The 9th Grade Absence and Late Submission Policy applies to this class.

On the upper right hand corner of *every* assignment, please write your name, class period, date and assignment. All work must be shown and answers should be boxed.

Illegible homework or homework with no work shown will receive a grade of 0%.

CLASSWORK POLICY

Classwork and class participation are worth 20% of the quarterly grade. I cannot stress enough how important it is to be an active and vocal participant in class. Questioning and discussing new material are critical to understanding challenging work. Students' notebooks will not be collected, but they may be assessed by pop notebook quizzes. Do Nows will be collected and graded.

ABSENT POLICY

Students are strongly encouraged not to be absent, but if you must, you will be responsible for turning in the assignment **due** the day they missed on the day they return. The homework **assigned** on the day they missed will be due the following day unless otherwise discussed. Students are responsible for seeing the teacher for missed assignments on the day of their return. If a student misses a test or a quiz, they are responsible for making up the missed quiz or test within a reasonable amount of time. They are still responsible for seeing me the day they return.

CLASS PROCEDURES

- Entering the Classroom: Enter the classroom, and start the Do Now. When the bell rings, you should be silent with your materials out and your backpack on the floor. If you are coming in as the bell rings or after, you are late and will receive a demerit.
- Exiting the Classroom: Wait to be dismissed by Ms. Zern—not the bell! Your area should be clean.
- Getting Out of Your Seat: You must request permission to get out of your seat for any reason. Raise your hand and wait for Ms. Zern to call on you.
- Passing in Work: Ms. Zern will collect classwork most days and grade it for correction.
- Leaving the Room: You may go to the bathroom during appropriate times during class. You will not be allowed to go right after class begins and at the end of class. Raise your hand to ask if you must go and then sign out. You will only be given permission to go to the nurse if it is an emergency.
- Absent: If you are absent, you are responsible for making up the classwork and homework (and handing in the homework) within one day. See me for worksheets and ask a classmate for the notes and any textbook assignments. Come to tutoring with any questions or concerns. Extended absences will be handled on a case by case basis.
- Preparedness: If you arrive without any of your materials, please try to borrow them before the bell rings from a classmate. Once the bell rings, you will receive a demerit for being unprepared and will not be allowed to go to your locker to get what you forgot.
- Demerits and detentions will be awarded based on BCCS school policies.