

8th Grade Syllabus

Teacher:

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Course Description:

The Algebra course will introduce the students to an overall view of Algebra and its terms and symbols. The student will take their past knowledge of integers, fractions and decimals and apply them to: algebraic equations and expressions; describe linear, quadratic and exponential functions; describe translations of familiar functions in both words and symbols; justify simple algebraic proofs.

Course purpose:

The purpose of this course is to develop the student's power to use Algebraic signs, symbols and terms to provide answers to real world problems.

Content Covered:

Introduce the tools of algebra--variables, real numbers, graphing
Solving equations--one and two step equations
Solving Inequalities--graph inequalities, absolute value
Graphs and functions--function rules and graphing of events
Linear equations--slope and rate of change
Systems of equations--applications of linear equations
Exponential functions--properties of exponents
Polynomials--factoring

Materials and Supplies:

Book-Prentice Hall Algebra 1
Workbook-Prentice Hall Algebra 1
Notebook (paper)
Pencils
Math Folder-two pockets
Ruler
Graph paper
Three colored pencils (not black)
TI-83 Graphing Calculator

Classroom Procedures and Expectations

Class procedure

Students are expected to arrive on time and in an orderly manner and settle quickly, in preparation to begin class.

Desk Policy

Notebook, loose-leaf, homework, pencils, graphing calculator, folder and book are expected to accompany student to class each day. These items and these items only should appear on student's desk during class.

Homework

Homework is an integral part of the mathematics learning process. I am a firm believer that students don't realize what they don't comprehend or fully understand until they try to do it on their own. Homework is the only opportunity afforded students to make errors and learn from their mistakes that do not impact their grade in a negative way.

Students and parents should expect that homework will be assigned nightly, including many weekends.

1. Homework will be reviewed/corrected daily and accepted based on completeness and effort, not the accuracy of the answer.
Homework is 25% of the grade per quarter.
2. All homework must be legible. All work must be shown.
3. Homework produced late will receive no credit.

In Class Work

1. In class work: eye-openers, worksheets, etc (any work done in class other than notes)
2. In class work is 10% of the quarter grade

Quizzes

1. Students should prepare for quizzes daily. All quizzes are based on the homework from the night before.
2. Quizzes are 25% of the grade.
3. 2 low quizzes will be dropped per quarter.
4. Quizzes are normally not announced prior to their taking.

Notes

1. Daily class notes and step by step examples and solutions are given daily by the teacher throughout each lesson. Notes should be recorded by the student in their math notebook for preparation for homework, quizzes and tests. Notes are the property and responsibility of the student and are not collected or graded.

Tests

1. Test count 40% of the quarter grade.
2. One test is given per unit unless it is exceptionally long. In testing, the focus is on the process rather than the solution. Students must show all their work to receive full credit. Students who show all their work will receive partial credit for their solution even if the answer is wrong. Students who give incorrect answers with no work shown will receive no credit.

Class Participation

1. Students are expected to actively listen and record examples of material covered in the class and work in groups, alone or with me to solve problems.
2. Distributive behavior will not be tolerated. Students are expected to abide by all school policies outlined in the school handbook that was supplied to them at registration.
3. Class participation is imperative to success. Failing to come to class prepared is unacceptable.

Outside Help

1. I will be available every day after school from 2:45 until 3:00 pm to help students. Students must let me know 1 day ahead of time that they need help. This is not a homework session. I will work with students that have problems with a concept or procedure.

Absence

1. Student is responsible for all missed work
2. Student must make up missed test within a few days of an absence.
3. Within reason, a student is not required to make up missed quizzes. Frequent absence is extremely detrimental to student performance.

Grading

Homework	25%
Quizzes	25%
In class work	10%
Test	40%

Just a few notes to students and parents---

1. All students are to bring their folder (any kind that has two pockets), calculator, math notebook, pencil, math book, math workbook and graph paper to class each day starting the first full week of classes. A ruler and colored pencils will be required from time to time and I will announce when they are required.
2. If student does not have their homework in my class on the day it is due then a **grade of zero** is given (even if the homework is in another room at school)
3. All papers collected and graded will be given back to the student the next day and they are to place in their math folder. I will collect the math folders on test day to review
4. 99 % of the time all assignments will be placed on my website at least 1 week in advance
5. 99% of the time all graded papers (except tests) will be on the internet before 8am the next morning. Tests are posted when all students have taken the test
6. I give **2 to 3 pop quizzes** each week. All quizzes are based on the homework from the night before. If I happen to give a quiz over more than 1 lesson I will inform the kids in advance. I **drop 2 quiz scores** each quarter. If a student is absent on the day of the quiz they are not held responsible for that quiz. They will have less quiz grades for that quarter. The only exception-- if the student is absent too much then I will have that student take the missed quizzes
7. **Expect homework some weekends**