

Algebra 1 Plus
2015-2016
Mrs. Galla

Welcome to our math class. Let's work together to make this a successful year for all of us!

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course begins with a pre-algebra refresher course. Students will spend first term going over topics such as fractions and decimals, operations with positive and negative integers, percents, ratios and proportions, and strategies for solving word problems. Second and third term will be spent as a CP Algebra 1 course. Topics such as simplifying algebraic expressions, substitution, solving equations, using formulas, graphing on the coordinate plane, solving systems of equations and inequalities, and factoring will be explored. Students then apply these concepts to real life situations and integrate concepts from other branches of mathematics.

TEXTS: *Pre-Algebra:* Larson, et al. McDougal Littell.
Algebra 1: Larson, et al. McDougal Littell 2007.
Algebra 1 Common Core: Charles, et al. Pearson 2015

To be successful in this class:

1. Come to class prepared.
2. Always pay attention in class and take good notes.
3. Do homework assignments to reinforce material and to prepare you for tests.
4. Study for tests by reviewing notes and text.
5. Observe the MPS honor code and follow the student expectations outlined in your handbook.

Items needed daily

- A binder in which to keep your notes, tests, etc.
- Graph paper
- Straight edge
- Scientific calculator – not until term 3
- Pencils – *All work to be handed in must be in pencil.*
- At least 2 dry erase markers

Homework and Tests

Before you turn in any homework or take a test this year, please refer to your handbook as a reminder of academic integrity. "Intellectual honesty requires the submission of work that represents the original efforts of the individual student. Conversely, cheating is defined as representing another's work as your own and enabling others to use your work as their own."

Homework will be assigned daily. It will be posted on eBackpack, the MPS website or you can email me. Do not come to class and say, "I didn't know how to do the homework". That is why I have extra help. We will go over the homework, but it is to check your answers, not to re-teach you.

Please keep hard copies of all graded assignments. If there is a grade discrepancy, the burden of proof lies with the student.

Binder – you must keep your class notes, tests, handouts, etc in a neat, organized binder. Each term, I will be checking this binder 10 times. It will be a random check. For example, on October 7th I may check the notes from September 10th. Therefore, each page in the binder will be dated. In order for most of you to succeed in math, you need to be organized. Your notebook is your most important reference. It should have in it anything that we talked about during class readily available for you. Part of my job is to teach you to become good math note-takers.

GRADES

Your grades per term will be determined as follows:

- unit exams
- at least one quiz per unit
- 10 random checks for notes/homework worth 3 points each
- in-class assignments and homework assignments

Your grade each term will be determined by your total points: points earned divided by total points.

There will be a final exam at the end of the year that will be 1/7 of your yearlong grade.

Your yearlong grade is determined by taking $(2(\text{term 1}) + 2(\text{term 2}) + 2(\text{term 3}) + \text{yearlong final})/7$

ATTENDANCE

In the event that you become ill or cannot come to school for any reason, you must make up the assignments you miss. The homework will always be posted so it should be done on the day of your return to class. If you miss only one class period before a test you will be expected to take it along with the rest of the class upon your return. If you are absent the day of a test, have your parents let the attendance office know that they are aware you have a math test that day. You will make up the test in class on the day that you return to school. You are responsible for class notes and any assignments missed.

PROGRESS REPORTS

You and your parents/guardians should be checking the online grading system for grade updates. Students, please communicate with your parents. Tell them your grades so that they are not surprised/shocked when they see them online.

HELP SESSIONS

Even the brightest of students have difficulty understanding concepts in mathematics. Please do not hesitate to see me if you are having trouble, and try not to get behind. It is easier to keep up than catch up.

My help sessions are Thursdays after school in room 119. If this time does not work for you, please see me and we'll try to figure something out. I will also have NHS tutors available at other times. As another alternative, **Math Lab** is open Tuesdays and Thursdays after school until 4:00 and Wednesday mornings starting at 7:30 in room 120. It is staffed by a math teacher and several peer tutors. This is a place where you can work on your homework with someone nearby to ask questions, get tutored, or get caught up on a topic missed.

If you have a question outside of school or need to get the homework, my email is jgalla@mpslakers.com.

Good luck & have a fantastic year!