

**Algebra 1 - Honors**  
**Mrs. Jennifer Galla & Mrs. Paula Allshouse**  
**2015 – 2016**

**Course description:** This course is a rigorous study of the fundamental concepts of Algebra. The main objective of this course is two-fold: first, to fully prepare you for future mathematics courses, and second, to develop problem-solving skills necessary in all courses.

**Course of study:** The following is just a brief list of topics we will be mastering this year.

- ◇ Operations with polynomials, factoring polynomials
- ◇ Solve many types of equations such as linear, fractional, quadratic, and radical
- ◇ Solve and graph inequalities and systems of inequalities
- ◇ Solve and graph linear systems
- ◇ Introduction to functions (linear, absolute value, quadratic, rational, and exponential)
- ◇ Operations with rational expressions
- ◇ Solve various types of word problems (we will do this continually all year)
- ◇ Introduction to series and sequences: arithmetic and geometric

**Materials:** The most important one is YOU. Come to class with a positive attitude and the belief that you have the potential to master the concepts offered in class. Come to class prepared. Bring with you your notebook, book (Algebra 1 by Larson, Boswell, Kanold, and Stiff), graph paper, pencil, and straight-edge. Calculators will be minimally used.

**Grading:** Letter grades and percentage grades will follow the grading rules set forth in the MPS handbook. Students will receive three term grades and one final assessment grade. The term grades are total points which will be converted to a percentage and will consist of tests, homework, in-class assignments and extra-practice homework. The final assessment grade will be a cumulative final given at the end of the school year and is worth 1/7 of the yearlong grade.

**Grade management:** It is your responsibility to keep all graded papers and a running record of your grades for each term. I will be posting your grades on PowerSchool. Careful attention will be given to accurately record your grades. However, please check periodically to make sure that each of your grades has been recorded correctly. If you feel there is a discrepancy, you will need to show me the original graded paper to verify the correct grade.

**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. Collected homework is due at the start of class. If homework is handed in anytime after the start of class it will be considered late and points will be deducted. NO CREDIT will be given once the assignment is returned to the class. 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. The test will be made up in class the day of your return. You will be responsible for getting notes missed.

**Help night:** Please utilize our class time together as much as possible. I encourage questions at all times. Letting me know right away that you do not understand something not only helps you but probably some of your classmates as well. I will always try to give some time at the end of class to start homework; this is a good time to ask questions as well. If you would like extra help outside of the class time, I will be available on Thursdays afterschool in room 119. 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.

**Behavior:** It is important to create a positive learning environment in every class. This is very easy to achieve. We must always respect one another, be compassionate towards one another and empower one another by believing in our own potential and the potential of everyone in the class. The code of honor, the mission statement, and the integrity policy, which exemplify the charisms of a Mercy education, are all an integral part of this classroom.

***Even the brightest of students have difficulty understanding some 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. Good luck & have a fantastic year!***