



August 2008

Welcome to Algebra Class!

My name is Aaron DeWitt, to be known by my students as Dr. DeWitt, and I will be guiding your students through their first year of high school math. I love math very much and really enjoy helping students gain new knowledge and discover the many benefits that math holds for them. It is my goal to make sure that your student understands the concepts that they have been taught up to this point and develop a good understanding of the principles covered in algebra.

In order to best enable your student to get the most out of this algebra experience, we need to work together. I make use of the student Smith Planner, which is a valuable tool for every student. Each day the students will write the objective in the planner. Grades will be posted in their planners weekly. They will also have a daily assignment. I encourage note keeping. By reviewing this information you can be kept aware of your student's progress. If you have any questions feel free to call me at (480) 472-9933 or email me at fadewitt@mpsaz.org.

If a student is having difficulty, I will be providing tutoring most mornings (except Wednesdays) and most days after school. On the days that I have a required meeting or duty, I will not be available. We have a lot of meetings scheduled for Wednesday mornings. I will post a schedule of availability for tutoring in my classroom. Students are required to sign up ahead of time to let me know when they are coming for tutoring.

Again, I am looking forward to having your student in my class. I am sure that this will be a beneficial year in their study of mathematics. Please read the following guidelines and procedures detach and sign the slip below.

Sincerely,

Aaron DeWitt, Ph.D
Math Department
Smith Junior High School

Your signature indicates that you have received a copy of this letter.

(Student name printed)

(Student signature)

(Parent/Guardian)

(Date)

(Date)

Guidelines and Procedures

Materials: Bring the following materials to class everyday unless otherwise instructed.

- Smith Planner (provided)
- 3 Ring Binder with loose leaf paper
- At least two sharpened #2 pencils (mechanical #2 ok)

Guidelines: Please abide by the following rules while in my classroom

- Receive permission to communicate
- Receive permission to be out of your seat
- Be on task
- Show respect to others at all times
- Be prepared for class
- Cell phones must be unseen and unheard in the building
- Cell phones seen or heard will be taken to the office

Consequences:

- Teacher/Student Conference
- Logical Consequence
- 30 minute detention
- Direct Parent Contact
- Administrative Involvement

Grading Breakdown: These are the major categories for grades.

- Test and Quizzes	70%	
- Assignments	20%	
- Class Participation	<u>10%</u>	
	100%	9 week grade
- 9 Week Grade	40%	
- 9 Week Grade	40%	
- Semester Test	<u>20%</u>	
	100%	Semester Grade

Grades are very important. They start counting as part of your high school cumulative average. Some extra credit will be made available for after school tutoring. Assignments are critical extra practice to assure understanding. Students should make sure that they understand how to do all problems on their assignments.

We will be following Mesa Public School's objectives and the state standards.

Major outcomes for the course are:

1. Students will be able to solve and interpret the solutions of mathematical sentences.
2. Students will express data or relationships as algebraic expressions and convert expressions to equivalent forms.
3. Students will be able to graph, identify and analyze linear relations/functions.
4. Students will analyze and represent data in various forms.
5. Students will analyze and apply functions/patterns expressed in various forms.
6. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the problem-solving process by solving problems utilizing multiple representations and or strategies.
7. Students will represent problem situations in discrete structures.

Test and quizzes will be used to determine mastery of the concepts of Arizona High School State Standards Articulated by Grade Level. In this course I will be presenting concepts of a first year algebra class. State standards associated with a first year algebra class will be presented. It is my hope that each student will master the concept associated with each algebra state standard. At the end of this class the students will know the algebra state standards they have demonstrated mastery over and the algebra state standards that still need additional work. During this school year, I will be available should they need additional help. **Please do not wait until the last minute.** As each semester reaches an end I will have less and less time available for tutoring.