

# Algebra 1

## Course Outline 2008/2009

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year. I am honored to be guiding your child through their first year of high school math. Even though your student is still on a junior high campus, it is important for you to stress to your child that their grades this year will be the start of their high school GPA (Grade Point Average) and transcripts. In other words, the grades earned in 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade comprise the GPA looked at by colleges and most employers. I truly care about all of my students and want them to do well. Please read and keep this course outline. Fill out the attached student info sheet and have your child return it no later than Friday August 15<sup>th</sup>. Should you need to contact me, feel free to call and email me any time. I look forward to working with you and your child and having a successful year! ☺

### 1. Supplies:

Please let me know if you are unable to get the following items so that I can assist you!

Each student will need to come to class each day with the following supplies:

- \* 3-ring binder (To be used ONLY for math class if possible)
- \* 2 Dividers/Tabs (Label them: Homework, Notes)
- \* Pencils with erasers. (Notes/Assignments may NOT be done in pen)
- \* Highlighter
- \* Red Pen (For grading)
- \* Paper
- \* An appropriate book/magazine for silent reading
- \* A spiral notebook (Students will use this for warm-ups)
- \* A Smith Junior High Planner (The school will provide this for students)

*Note: Planners are intended to be a communication tool between parents and teachers. I will be updating their grades in them on Fridays, so please check them!*

### 2. Homework:

Homework will be assigned on a daily basis. It must be done only in pencil and all work must be shown. If work is done on a separate sheet of paper, it must be stapled to the assignment. The homework assigned should take the student no more than 30 minutes to complete. Homework assignments may be given points based on completion while others may be graded on randomly selected problems.

Answer keys will be posted before and after school so that students may check their solutions prior to grading it in class. There will be "Copyfest" errors in the answer key to catch students who are just copying the key. If a student is caught copying answers from my key, or another student's paper, the student will receive a zero. If students do come across an answer that does not match their own solution, it is their responsibility to try the problem again, and if they think that they found a Copyfest error they will need to check with me and may receive extra credit on their homework assignment.

### 3. Test/Quizzes

Quizzes will take place about once a week as needed. There will be a test following the completion of each chapter. Before each test there will be a review day where students will practice similar test items.

#### 4. Class Participation

Students are expected to participate in class by doing warm-ups, doing problems on the board, answering questions, keeping binders organized, and working on assignments when time is given. Once students return the student info sheet, I automatically give them 100 participation points. Points will be deducted from students not following class procedures, for instance, if they are tardy, coming to class without supplies, chewing gum, disrupting others, refusing to work, or using inappropriate language.

#### 5. Late Assignments:

*No late assignments will be accepted.* There is no excuse for the student not to have their assignment completed. An assignment with even one problem left blank (or not seriously attempted) will be marked as incomplete and be given a zero. The students will receive 2 late passes per quarter for emergency use. They must still finish the assignment and attach the late pass when completed. The purpose of these assignments is to practice new content learned that day as well as to review previously taught content. Practice makes perfect! With this in mind, it is imperative that you and I work together to help students understand the necessity for and importance of classroom participation and homework.

#### 6. Absences:

I use guided notes in my class, and post all the notes in the back of the room, so when a student is absent they can use either my notes or a classmate's notes to fill in their missing notes. Students who have excused absences have two days for each day absent to make up their work. It is the student's responsibility to pick up and turn in missed assignments. Assignments turned in late due to excused absences receive full credit. Work missed due to unexcused absences will be recorded as a zero. If a student misses an exam it is their responsibility to see me to schedule to take it before or after school.

#### 7. Binders:

You are expected to bring to class a binder everyday (if possible: designated for this class only). Students must keep all assignments in the binder. Dividers should be used to separate notes and homework. Please keep homework ordered as it is given. When a teacher has over 100 students, errors can happen when typing in so many grades, so keeping all papers will be beneficial for your student in order to show proof of any mistakes. This will be checked throughout the year for points.

#### 8. Grading:

Each semester will be divided into two quarters, and students start back fresh at 100% at the beginning of each quarter. Grades will be determined using the following breakdowns:

##### Grading Scales:

A 90-100%  
B 80-89%  
C 70-79%  
D 60-69%  
F 0-59%

|  |
|--|
| 70% Test/Quizzes<br>+ 20% Homework<br>+ 10% <u>Class Participation</u><br>= <i>Quarter Grade</i> |
|--|

|   |
|---|
| 40% of 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter grade<br>+ 40% of 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter grade<br>+ <u>20% of Semester Final</u><br>= <i>Semester Grade</i> |
|---|

*\*Note: If your child's grade drops below a 65% at any time, parents will be notified immediately and your child will be referred to our F's Are Not Good (FANG) tutorial program. I will be available for tutoring for all students at least two times each week. (Times and Dates will be announced)*

# Student Information Sheet

## Algebra 1-Ms. Mazzucco

### 2008-2009

| <i>Student Information</i> |   |                          |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| <i>Name</i>                | <i>Birthday</i>                               | <i>Class hour/Period</i> |
| <i>Home phone</i>          | <i>Name of math teacher you had last year</i> |                          |

| <i>Mom's/Guardian's Info</i> | <i>Dad's/Guardian's Info</i> |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Name</i>                  | <i>Name</i>                  |
| <i>Work Location</i>         | <i>Work location</i>         |
| <i>Work phone</i>            | <i>Work phone</i>            |
| <i>Cell phone</i>            | <i>Cell phone</i>            |
| <i>Email</i>                 | <i>Email</i>                 |

**\*\* Note: I would like your email so that I can quickly email guardians class news and grade reports. \*\***

What additional information/concerns about your child should I be aware of?

By signing below, you are ensuring that the information above is accurate to the best of your knowledge and that you have read the course syllabus.

|                     | <i>Student</i> | <i>Mom/Guardian</i> | <i>Dad/Guardian</i> |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Signature</i>    |                |                     |                     |
| <i>Printed Name</i> |                |                     |                     |
| <i>Date</i>         |                |                     |                     |

