



Algebra 1 ~ Course Syllabus

Welcome to our Algebra class. The primary goal of this course is for the student to actively engage themselves in a positive learning experience in which there is increased appreciation and understanding of mathematics in the world. It is my hope that students will find joy and success in solving problems and grow as learners and participants within our classroom community. To reach these goals the course curriculum is structured around the Common Core Standards through our Algebra textbook.

Course Format

This course is designed for students to use class time to maximize learning and build relationships and community in the classroom environment. All activities within the classroom are expected to contribute to an atmosphere of learning in which respect, involvement in learning, and a positive attitude are essential components.

In order for us to accomplish our mathematics and personal goals please make note of the following guidelines:

- Attend every class. New topics are covered daily. This is VERY IMPORTANT!!!
- Arrive on time and be prepared with completed assignments and supplies.
- Begin participating in the introductory activity as soon as you arrive.
- Use class time wisely. You lead busy lives and the best time to complete your coursework is during class when you have the assistance of your teacher and peers.
- Seek help when needed. Utilize our google classroom resources, posted lesson notes, posted worked out solutions for guidance, online text materials (including videos), study buddies, peer tutors, professional tutors.
- ASK Questions! I welcome and encourage maximum understanding...smart people ask questions!

Learning Resources and Course Site

All students will have access to an online textbook which includes print and video lessons, interactive examples, practice problems, additional practice opportunities, and self assessment tools. In class learning and activities are essential and all additional resources and assignments will be posted and collected in Google Classroom, Students must enroll in our Google Classroom; if parents/guardians would like to receive Guardian Summaries, they can contact any one of their child's teachers to sign up.

Our Google Classroom site is your link to assignments, lessons, notes, teacher communications, and helpful tips. Your online text comes with a multitude of support: practice problems, step by step examples, teaching videos, interactive checks for learning, practice quizzes, tests, and more! After good attendance and engagement in class these are your best places to look for help to keep you in the know and on track. Please consult the online resources if you are absent for a class session or if you are struggling. You will most likely find answers to your questions there – help yourself!

Assignments and Assessments

Please expect an assignment each time we meet. Assigned work is due the next class meeting for optimal learning and full credit. Assignment scores are completion scores only. They do not reflect your understanding of the concepts. You are expected to check your answers with the solutions in the book or the worked out solutions key provided online and ask questions for those you struggle with during class time or connect with study buddies. (Late or incomplete assignments will earn full credit if completed by the end of the unit; otherwise zero points are earned. The late or incomplete policy is for RARE situations only.) The best way to be successful is to keep pace with the class. You can expect many quizzes throughout the topic, a test upon completion of the topic, and a comprehensive final exam at the end of the semester.

If a student experiences unusual poor performance (<70%) on a topic test they may ask to demonstrate further learning/competency and earn back some points (up to 70%) and only once per semester. To take advantage of this opportunity students must complete all assignments for the topic and complete the competency assignment prior to the next topic exam. It is the student's responsibility to request and schedule the competency assignment (please email the teacher). There are no retakes/competency assignments on final exams. Practice problems and/or a full practice test is provided for each topic test and the final exam along with answer keys. Practicing math to create understanding is the key to positive performance. Take advantage of these opportunities!

Grading

What you learn, you earn! You are the master of your own learning and performance. I commit to do my very best to facilitate your learning and in the end, like most things in life, you will get out of this course what you put into it. I will do my best to inspire you, guide you, and remind you to stay focused with the goal. The rest is up to you.

Grading Scale:

93-100 A	80-82 B-	67-69 D+
90-92 A-	77-79 C+	60-66 D
87-89 B+	73-77 C	< 60 F
83-86 B	70-72 C-	

Grade Composition:

Assessments 60%
Quizzes 30%
Assignments/Learning Activities 10%

Academic Honesty

Honesty is a compelling principle by which we operate all aspects of student and school life. Academic honesty is highly valued at BHS. Students should not cheat or plagiarize, nor should they tolerate such among fellow students. Students do not receive credit for work that is not their own. Cheating is defined as an attempt to earn credit or receive a grade for coursework in a manner other than defined as acceptable by the teacher. Plagiarism is the taking of language, ideas or thoughts from another person or resource without acknowledging the source. Because of the serious nature of academic honesty, violations of this code may result in loss of credit for the assignment with a recorded failing grade. It may also entail loss of credit for the course with a recorded failing grade, removal from the course with a failing grade, and/ or additional appropriate disciplinary action. ([BHS Student Handbook](#))

Communications and Self-Advocacy

As young adults it is important that you develop and practice your self-advocacy skills. If you have questions or concerns, please speak to me in class or email me and/or your counselor. Please seek help when needed. Utilize our class website, online text materials (including videos), study buddies, peer tutors, professional tutors. ASK Questions! I welcome and encourage good understanding...questions are a path to understanding.

Problem Solving & Mathematical Collaboration

To truly learn math, you must discuss interesting problems with others. We will work to build your collaborative skills, having critical and constructive exchanges, valuing mistakes, and encouraging and supporting one another as we create the courage and perseverance to solve challenging problems.

Technology

To fully participate in this course, you will need to have access to your BISD chromebook or a similar device and an Internet connection that supports engaging with your online textbook. Your device must be in full working order, with a functional camera for submitting assignments, video and audio for online lesson help.

For tech support, please go to www.bisd303.org/techsupport and report your issue.

You will also want to have a quiet space where you can complete your assignments for our class. This space should include a table and chair with room for your chromebook and your math notebook for taking notes and solving problems. Consider where you can set yourself up for work time so you can be undisturbed, focused, and engaged (couches or beds, while enticing, are NOT recommended :-). If you have difficulty finding a good workspace, I'd be happy to help brainstorm solutions together.

Graphing calculator TI-83 Plus or higher is required. If looking to purchase, a TI-84 Plus CE is highly recommended. TI-Inspire calculators are not allowed on assessments.

Please Know ...

Discipline, flexibility and responsiveness will be our framework for this school year. I will check in with you often to see how we are all doing meeting goals and enjoying school. Learning and engaging is fun and I will do my best to help you with both. I am confident that we will have a school year that includes math learning, community building, positive relationships, and some zany times too!

I am so excited to get to know you and have fun in our math class!
I look forward to a highly successful and enjoyable year ~ welcome.

~ Mrs. Tsolomitis



Algebra 1 ~ Course Outline

First Semester:

Topic 1 Solving Equations & Inequalities

Topic 2 Linear Equations

Topic 3 Linear Functions

Topic 4 Systems of Linear Equations and Inequalities

Topic 5 Piecewise Functions

Second Semester:

Topic 6 Exponents and Exponential Functions

Topic 7 Polynomials and Factoring

Topic 8 Quadratic Functions

Topic 9: Solving Quadratic Functions

Topic 10: Working with Functions

Topic 11: Statistics