Course Information Algebra 1 2019-2020

Course Description

The goal of the Algebra 1 team is to lay the foundation for all future math courses. We want all our students to understand and appreciate the mathematics they are studying; that they can read it, write it, explore it, and communicate it with confidence; and that they will be able to use mathematics as they need to in their lives.

We believe that problem solving (investigating, conjecturing, predicting, analyzing, and verifying), followed by a well-reasoned presentation of results, is central to the process of learning mathematics, and that this learning happens most effectively in a cooperative, student-centered classroom.

Class Procedures

When the bell rings, students are expected to be quiet, with HW and/or notes and supplies ready. Students are to have a fully charged laptop every day. This course is problem-based, student-centered and dependent upon discussion. Be prepared to work on problems and share solutions with a partner, group or class.

Grading

The following system will be used to determine grades:

- **Tests 60%**
- **Quizzes 30%**
- **Homework/Daily Participation 10%**

**Tests** - There will be at least three Unit tests each six weeks on predetermined dates. Tests can and will contain any topics covered throughout the year up to the test date.

**Retake Policy** – Students can retake tests with grade is below 75.

- Only one retake per test. Maximum score on a retake is 80 for Prep and 75 for PreAP.
- Retake must be completed within one week of original test grade being posted in Gradespeed.
- Students are **required** to attend tutorials and complete test corrections on a designated day prior to retesting.

**Quizzes** - The purpose of quizzes in this class is to check for your understanding of topics covered every few days. Quizzes can be announced or pop, solo, partner, or group. You will be able to use notes on some quizzes and not on others. There are no retakes on quizzes.
Homework/Participation - Homework is necessary for practice and for mastering the material covered. You will be graded on daily assignments. You must keep your materials organized and all work must be shown and explanations clear to receive credit. Other grades may include spot check on homework and for participating in discussions and putting problems on the board.

Class Journal – Students will be required to have a 100-page spiral notebook that can be kept in the classroom. This journal will be used for warm-ups, quizzes, and critical writing assignments.

A 100-page spiral notebook (college rule preferred) – Students will be required to have and bring to class daily, a 100-page spiral notebook for Algebra 1. It will contain all daily notes and hand-outs, homework assignments, and graded work and tests. This notebook is a daily participation grade.

Late Work – All late assignments will only be accepted 1 day past the due date and will receive 25 points off that assignment grade. Online homework will not be accepted late.

Absences/Make-Up Work

If you miss class for any reason it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to find out what it is that you missed. If you miss the day that an assignment is due, you must turn it in the following day you are in school to receive full credit. If you miss a quiz or test day it is expected that you will make up the test or quiz the day you return on your own time. If you miss multiple days, we will make arrangements as needed.

Tutoring

The Algebra 1 team at Westside makes every effort to accommodate as many tutorial times as possible. There will be opportunities before school, during lunch, and after school. Check out the tutorial posters on our school website and/or the posters throughout school for available times.

Classroom Rules

- Be prompt, be prepared, and be polite.
- Respect others and their property.
- Phones will always remain silent and out of sight prior to entering the House per Westside HS’s Cell Phone Policy. No cell phone use in the classroom (non-negotiable). If the student violates the Westside cell phone policy, the phone WILL BE confiscated.
- You may NOT charge your cell phone at all in class. (non-negotiable)
- Laptops may be charged in the classroom at teachers’ discretion. Ask first!
- NO sleeping (non-negotiable)
- Obey all school rules (ID worn around neck at ALL TIMES and in PROPER dress code)
- Bring PENCILS with erasers EVERYDAY. Also have pens, colored pencils, and highlighters.
- Write your name and class period on all work.
- No Work = No Credit (NCWC). You must clearly show all your work at all times to receive full credit on tests, quizzes, and assignments.
Guidelines for homework/assignments
- Neat and clearly written
- Use pencil only
- Show all your work. No Work = No Credit (NWNC)
- Full Heading required (Name, Class Period, Date).

Tardy Policy

You are expected to be in class when the tardy bell rings. If you are not, then you are considered tardy and will be required to get a tardy pass from the Student Support Center. Do not come to class unless you have taken care of your business (ID, uniform, tardy pass, etc.)

Classroom Supplies

- 100-page spiral notebook (required for Prep)
- Pencils, Erasers
- Red pen
- Colored pencils
- Highlighters
- Binder (required for PreAP/ recommended for prep)
- Graphing Calculator TI-84 (recommended)

Classroom Donations (optional)

- Ream of unlined white printer paper
- Tissue Box
- Hand Sanitizer

Final Word

This is going to be an exciting year with mathematics presented in a way that is different from anything you have done before in a math class. You should spend at least 30 minutes each evening doing math (studying and doing homework). I know that if you give it your best you will be successful in this class and show mastery of the concepts by the end of the year. Your long-term goal of becoming a high school graduate is dependent upon this class and I am looking forward to helping you achieve this goal.

Please sign and return

Student’s signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________________

Parent’s signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________________

Parent’s email: ___________________________________________

Phone: ___________________________