

Algebra 1

Overview for Parents

Teacher: Alison Gorman

Content Goals

This is a full-year Algebra I course which meets five periods a week and prepares students to take geometry. This course is designed for students who have mastered pre-algebra. The course begins by briefly reviewing and expanding on topics introduced in pre-algebra, including equation solving, operations with negative numbers, and axioms. Students then begin to work with polynomials, radicals, quadratics, two variable equations, exponents, and factoring. In addition, students study operations with radical and rational algebraic expressions and equations and inequalities in one and two variables.

The course emphasizes problem solving and reading and interpreting word problems. Students are encouraged to become independent problem solvers and willing to try a variety of strategies when faced with a challenging problem. Students are encouraged to become more self-sufficient learners. Reading the textbook and working through difficult problems by consulting examples and information from the book are emphasized.

In addition, students complete graphing calculator work throughout the course. They learn editing features and graphing techniques and to write programs on the calculator while at the same time recognizing that the calculator is a useful tool only if accompanied by thoughtful reasoning. All answers obtained on a calculator should be examined for reasonableness in the context of the problem.

Expectations for Students

Students are expected to arrive in class on time with the proper materials and with the previous night's assignment completed. Students should respect their teacher and classmates by listening attentively and not raising their hands while someone else is speaking. All students should feel that they can risk giving a wrong answer in class because often a wrong answer helps us to find our way to the correct answer. Calculator use will increase throughout the Middle School years, but calculators are only to be used for math.

There will be one or two shorter quizzes during the chapter and tests are given at the end of each chapter. All tests (not quizzes) may be corrected for some additional credit. Students have been given a specific set of rules for correcting tests and these must be followed exactly. Test corrections are due in class one week after the test is handed back.

Students are expected to use their Plan Books to mark in dates of tests and quizzes, reminders to study for tests and quizzes, and reminders about test correction due dates. Students are not required to copy the written assignment into their Plan Books since an assignment sheet is distributed and there is an assignment daily.

Homework Requirements

Homework will be given daily and is to be completed by the next day's class. A weekly assignment sheet will be handed out each Monday. If a student is absent or forgets his/her assignment sheet, the assignments will be posted on my teacher page on the Crossroads website by the end of each Monday. Homework should be done in a separate spiral notebook of graph paper. The assignment (section, pages, and problem numbers) must be included at the top of each assignment.

Homework assignments will usually not be collected daily. We will review homework daily in class and students will have the opportunity to correct problems. A final grade on homework will not be given until the end of the chapter. The goal is for students to appreciate the value of homework for success in the course, not for the individual grades received on the assignments. Homework grades will not be a significant part of the trimester grade, but success on homework leads to success on quizzes and tests.

In addition to daily homework assignments, students are given review problem sets most weeks. These are ten problems which students have one week to complete.

Grading

Tests / quizzes.....75%
Homework.....15%
Review sheets.....10%

Contacting the Teacher:

I can be reached by e-mail at alison.gorman@crossroadsacademy.org or by leaving a voice mail at 795-3111, ext. 222. E-mail is the most efficient way to contact me.



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