

## ALGEBRA I

Mrs. LORENZO – J 207

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### COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

Algebra I is the first class on the journey to explore the higher level mathematic topics. Math can open many doors and paths for students. Algebra presents an opportunity to explore God and His immutability as we examine the consistency found in the patterns He made. Algebra gives students the realization that God's wisdom is infinite. Not only will students appreciate the Creator, they will also master the topics presented in Algebra. Additionally, students will develop problem solving skills that will serve them throughout their lives. Students will examine expressions and functions, both linear and nonlinear, as well as linear inequalities and systems of those equations. The course will expose students to exponents and exponential functions. Students will successfully solve polynomial equations and quadratic functions and equations. The course concludes with an exploration of statistics. All of these course aims will allow students to achieve great things in this class while preparing them for future math courses. It is my hope that students will come to love math and all of the great things they can do throughout their lives because of their knowledge of Math. The instruction will be given using a wide variety of methods, and students will express their knowledge in a variety of methods as well.

### WHAT YOU SHOULD BRING TO CLASS

- Textbook, (Algebra I, McGraw Hill)
- Sharpened Pencils
- Red Pens
- Dry Erase Markers and eraser
- Graphing calculator, TI-84 or higher OR your scientific calculator from 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade
- 3 ring binder
- loose leaf paper
- graph paper
- Dividers

### ABSENTEE WORK AND LATE WORK

We follow the school's policy outlined in the student handbook. Students are responsible to gather the missing material from their absence from hanging file on the wall, labeled clearly for each class. Notes may be obtained from classmates. Because projects announced so far in advance, all projects are due on the date assigned whether you are present in school or not. Missed tests and quizzes will be taken the first day you come to class. If you miss several days, please have your parents contact me (or you may as well) so we can determine what will be due upon return and what you will have a few days to complete. Late work is not preferred. However, it is the student's responsibility to give any late work to the teacher. You will not be asked for the work. 25% is taken off the actual grade on the first day it is late, 50% on the second day late, and beyond that, a zero will be recorded. It will not be changed.

### GRADES

Grades are numbers assigned to demonstrate what portion of the material you have mastered. I want you to be successful. More importantly, I want you to know the material and be able to apply your knowledge to problems successfully. I am here to help you. Don't wait until the day of the test to recognize that you need help. Tests comprise 50%, Quizzes 35% and daily grades 15%. Classwork is averaged weekly into one daily grade to give students room to learn and grow. Some weeks we may elect to record the highest grade of the week. Homework is recorded individually. It is a daily requirement. Class notes are a requirement as well.

### HELP!

I will be available from 3:30 – 4:00 pm in J 207 on Mondays and Tuesdays. Please make plans to come if you are in need of assistance. You'll need to arrange your ride to pick you up at 4 to avoid aftercare charges.

### ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

**A** - Always give your best effort – I will too.

**N** - Never fear mistakes – we learn from them- ask for help.

**C** - Classwork – averaged for a weekly grade – it's your practice.

**H** - Homework – assigned daily, due daily – show your work!

**O** - Once a quiz/test is taken, scores are final. No partial points for corrections or extra credit.

**R** - Revisit me during office hours, Mondays and Tuesdays for extra help.

**S** - Scores below 70% must complete the mandatory MAPP activity with parent signature.

**(Scores above 80% on tests will be given reduced homework option in the following chapter as directed by the teacher. Students will be notified in class about their award.)**

## MAPP

In an effort to develop mastery, there will be times that a student may require extra practice or instruction to help future success. As such, a MAPP activity will be assigned. MAPP stands for Math Assessment and Practice Plan. Parents are required to sign the assignment to ensure that they have seen the student's below mastery score and to allow them to see specifically where the understanding needs strengthening. I will also invite those students to come to office hours to provide them additional academic support. Your help and support is appreciated and welcomed.

## CLASS EXPECTATIONS

In our class we show respect to all people and participate in class. We are timely and arrive ready to learn with the proper materials. Phones will not be used in class, so they should be turned off and stowed away in the basket by the door. I know each student will give their very best participation and effort. In the event a student may struggle with his/her self-management, we will use this acronym to help get everyone back on track.

S – Self-control is in evidence. (I anticipate everyone will be in this category.)

A – Adjust yourself. (The captain will give you a silent signal which indicates you need to adjust yourself.)

I – Introspection. (If you cannot adjust yourself, you will be given an introspection form which you will complete.)

L – Lighthouse. (To help you get back in the right spirit, a signal will be sent to your home and possibly the office.)

## PROJECTS

Each quarter, you will be assigned a project. Projects are beneficial for students to demonstrate their knowledge in a real world way and in a cross curricular way. Primarily, it will be completed outside of class. These projects may morph or change before they are assigned to you, based upon your progress. However, some sample ideas will include writing an escape room scenario to solve linear equations, a variety show solving for  $x$ , Stained Glass (Linear Equations) - Applications of System of Equations – Coordinate Graphing Project - Exponential Growth & Decay – Applications of Linear Equations - Data Analysis Project and possibly a service project.

## HOMEWORK

Homework is a daily event with the exception of Wednesdays. Calculators will not be utilized for homework. Work must be shown. We will grade homework daily. You will also be responsible for all vocabulary. If you are disinclined to complete homework, you cannot reasonably expect to be successful in this class. Homework must be done to meet success. Successful students have a set time and place to complete their homework. They also write their assignments in a central place (a planner) to keep track of their responsibilities. I strongly urge you to do the same.

## CLASS BEGINNING

As you arrive to class, you will quietly enter the room, prepare to begin class by setting out your materials, and begin to write down assignments from the board, and do the bellwork. Once you enter the “ship”, all talking/communication has ceased. Loose lips sink ships. ☺

## PHONES

We will not be using phones in the classroom. Should you carry a phone on campus, you will place it in the phone box located in the room near the absent work folders as you enter the classroom. We do have a reward system that allows you to take a selfie. If you earn that reward, you will be notified which day you may bring your phone to take the picture. The phone will then be turned off and stowed safely away in the designated box.

## INTEGRITY

Please note that TCA does not look lightly upon those who would make an effort to cheat whether copying another's homework, bringing answers in to the classroom for the purpose of completing tests, whether physically or electronically, utilizing “cheat” websites, or any other method of circumventing the purpose of the classwork, tests and quizzes. Should it be deemed that you have cheated, it is an automatic zero, a parent contact and an office referral. It will also disappoint me greatly as I expect my students to be honest in every way. I value honesty above grades. I can help you get better grades. I cannot help you have integrity. You have to develop that by being honest every day.



## OUR THEME

This year, you will be a sailor on a journey to find all of the secrets and treasures from the Sea of Algebra. It will be a fun class as we learn together. I'm so excited to have you in class. Welcome aboard!