



Algebra I - Course Syllabus 2016-17

Instructor: Instructor: **Mike Rooney** Room 204 (also Room 82)

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Textbook: *College Preparatory Mathematics, Core Connections Algebra 1, 2013* supplemented by current articles & educational resources for teaching Algebra I. The textbooks will primarily be used in class but students may check one out if they have missed class and need to catch up.

Parent/Student Resources:

www.vue.district6.org

To track grades & attendance

<http://www.cpm.org/students/homework/>
(this link takes you to the CPM homework website. You will need to click on the Core Connections Algebra Book and search by chapter.)

This is what our Algebra book looks like. Use the link to the left or click on the Core Connections Algebra Book to the right for helpful homework hints at home.



khanacademy.org

Helpful online tool that provides free tutorials and practice problems.

Course Overview:

This course teaches the fundamental concepts of algebra and prepares the student for higher levels of mathematics. Topics studied include integers, solutions for equations with one or two unknowns, formulas, graphs of equations, algebraic functions, factoring, square roots, exponents, and radicals. In addition, over the course of the year we will spend 8-10 weeks on applied math and hands-on projects.

Student Class Work Expectations:

Students will regularly be required to work collaboratively in teacher-designated teams. As teams need the focus of all team members to be the most successful, there will be periods of class time when students will be required to only talk with their team and not the other teams. During those periods of time, students will also be required to only talk about task at hand with their team.

Student questions to the teacher will rarely be met with a “yes/ no”, “right/ wrong”, or “the way you should solve it is” The philosophy behind the curriculum dictates that the teacher asks what the team understands about the problem, what the team has tried, and make sure everyone in the team is an active participant. The teacher may then follow with suggestions or more questions that hint at how to solve the problem.

Students should expect to regularly learn new concepts with their team. Students can also expect to struggle while learning new concepts. While it is understood that the struggle may be uncomfortable, students are expected to stay on task and persevere with their team to understand. When people learn and practice in a new way, which may include struggle, it grows their brain and solidifies learning.

Grading:

- **Essential Learning Target (ELT) Tests (50%):** You must earn 70% or better on every ELT test to be eligible for a grade in this course (See ELT Test Policies). There are many opportunities *before* each ELT test for extra help and tutoring. Applications for retakes will be approved if students have completed relevant Problems of the Week (POWs), attained 60% of the skills practice homework points and have shown “proof of preparation” between the original and retake tests (i.e. redo homework, chapter review, review previous test and make corrections).

In Algebra 1, you will be required to demonstrate proficiency more than one time for each ELT. We do this to ensure that students are retaining critical knowledge and skills.

- **Application of Learning and Retention (40%):**
 - Projects, performance tasks, and/or work samples (5 – 10%)*
 - Problem of the Week (see below) (5-10%)*
 - Quizzes (5 – 10%)*
 - Daily cooperative learning points (5 – 10%)*
 - Midterm Application Test (5 – 10%)*
 - Final Application Test (5-15%)*

Problem of the Week (POW) POWs are application based problems that students work on individually, outside of class. POWs are scored using a standards based rubric. All POWs may be revised to earn a passing score of 70%. Before retaking ELTs, you must satisfactorily complete relevant POWs.

* Percentages are approximate and may be adjusted depending on trimester and/or progress of class.

- **Homework – Toolkit/Learning Log (10%):** Each student will be expected to take class notes. A math *toolkit* will be provided to help students track and organize important content and vocabulary for each chapter (or unit) as a portfolio of Essential Learning Target progress. The toolkit is graded periodically throughout the trimester and may stay in class or goes home with the student, but it has to be in class every day. If a toolkit item is lost, it must be replaced to earn credit.

The practice you complete is very important for your learning and will be tracked in the gradebook. Homework provides for individual practice so you are prepared for class and tests. Students should expect to have 3 to 4 homework assignments each week. In general, assignments are designed to require less than 30 minutes of study time.

A = 90% and above

B = 80%- 89%

C= 70%-79%

D= 60%-69%

F= 59% and below

Essential Learning Target (ELT) Test Policies:

- **In order to earn a grade other than “I” you must earn 70% or better on each ELT test.**
- ELT Tests can be retaken, if needed, to achieve 70%, but before a retake is scheduled students must meet the retake requirements:
 - In Algebra 1, Students must complete and earn at least 60% on all POW’s that apply for a given Essential Learning Target before retaking. (see Problem of the Week above)
 - Students must correctly show proof of preparation (ELT Test Autopsy) before retaking an ELT test.
 - Students may choose to retake an ELT test they have already passed in order to improve their score. However, only one retake to increase a passing score is allowed, and the most recent score will be

recorded in the gradebook. If a student retakes a previously passed test and scores below 70%, they will be required to take the test again to meet demonstrate proficiency.

- The test administered to you as a retake will be different than the first test but will be the same in content.
- All tests must be completed on test day. I allow students unlimited time on every assessment if they are willing to work through their lunch or come in after school. When retaking a test, be sure to find a period of time in which you are able to complete the entire test.

In an effort for continuous improvement, the CAHPS Math Team reevaluates our policies each year. There is one important change this year that affects **when** all ELT tests must be retaken and passed with a 70% or better.

All ELT test retakes must be completed by the end of the Trimester. There is no longer a two week window in order to retake ELT tests from the previous trimester.

We have put this policy in place for the 2016-17 school year because,

1. Students will no longer need to “double up” on content. With the new deadline, students can concentrate on ELT tests from one trimester at a time.
2. All teachers would like consistent policies across disciplines to help students understand expectations and deadlines.
3. In order to help students meet this deadline, math teachers will be sharing office hours where students are allowed to get help and retake tests. All math teachers are available to help all students outside of class, regardless of what class they are in.

Required Materials:

- A spiral three ring college ruled (or grid paper) notebook. A two section one is recommended or at least 100 pages.
- Calculators are optional* (standard or scientific is fine) – **NOT A CELL PHONE!**
- Pencils, Pens, and eraser

*Calculators are permitted on a minimal basis in class and we generally encourage student to use them as a check for accuracy.

STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITIES

Mastering the learning targets in Algebra I requires students to **actively think** about what they know and to relate that to new ideas to be learned. To be successful, students must:

1. Be **actively involved** in class/group work, **ask questions, and contribute** to discussions.
2. **Complete or attempt all assignments.** All assignments are designed to help you learn. They are not busy work.
3. **Do your homework on time** so that you are prepared to learn with the rest of the class.
4. **Prepare in advance** for tests and quizzes and group learning activities (projects, Socratic seminars, etc)
5. **Do not distract** self and/or others students from the opportunity to learn.
6. **Follow the guidelines** set by the school and the district student behavior code. Come to class **on time and prepared** with materials.
7. **In group-work, use the 95 / 5 rule...** (95% math / 5% social, only after the math is done!)
8. Remember that **cell phones** and other electronic devices **should be OFF & out of sight** unless explicitly teacher approved for a given activity & then it must only be used in the manner approved. If such devices are out, a cell phone referral will be issued as per CAHPS discipline policy.
9. **Be safe** and follow all classroom rules

10. **Be respectful** to the teacher, fellow classmates, and any guests to our classroom (guest speakers, substitute teachers, student teachers, etc.)

Attendance (Follow school & District policies):

Attendance and participation are **vital to your success** in Algebra 1. We will be doing a lot of group work/activities which are difficult to make up. Group work and other learning activities are most valuable when done in class with other students to enhance learning. Without good attendance and active learning, acquiring the knowledge and skills of Algebra II is nearly impossible. Please notify me in advance if you will miss class for any **planned** activities.

PARENTS

If you need to contact your student for an emergency or other reason during the school day, PLEASE call the school phone number (541) 494-5260 and your student will be contacted. Please do **not** call or text your student's cell number during class because it causes disruptions to your and other student's learning.

The simplest way to reach me is by email (*mike.rooney@district6.org*); times that I am most available for parents are before school between 8:00 -8:50 AM, and during my second period prep on M T Th F. I can usually respond to your email within 2 working days. **For student help outside of class, I am available most days (except Fridays) before school (8:00-8:45 AM) and weekdays after school (3:45 – 5 PM).**

Office hours for math help will be posted outside each mathematics classroom. Each teacher will share the tutoring and test retaking responsibilities by being available in their classroom one day after school from 3:45 to 4:45. The CAHPS math department will strive to provide math help time every Monday through Thursday after school.

Algebra 1 SYLLABUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Note: Please read this syllabus carefully and sign it, have your parents/guardians read it and sign it, and return this portion to me by Friday, 9/16 **Be sure to place the rest of this document into your binder for Algebra I.**

I have read and understand the course expectations and policies:

Print Student Name (Please print neatly)

Student Signature

You, your daughter/son, and I are partners in your student's education. You can help him/her succeed by checking with them as often as possible about their progress and looking with them at their assignment completion and/or needs. Please also plan on attending parent/student teacher conferences. Contact me any time with questions or concerns.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Email – please print neatly

Best Phone Number(s) to reach you

First preference: _____

Second option (if available): _____

It is often easiest to call during the day. Is it okay to call you at work if there is something I would like or need to talk to you about your student? *Circle one* Yes No

If yes, work number: _____