

# Algebra I

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## Classroom/Office hours:

I am at school by 7 am **every morning** and I stay till 5 pm most afternoons. You may use my room as a study area or seek help during that time.

## Course Description:

Algebra is the basic course from which all mathematical success derives. All students must master the common core standards and they will be our primary objective. This rigorous course requires cooperative learning and we will use it to demonstrate understanding of the material. This course is required for all students to proceed to geometry next year.

## Textbook:

Big Ideas MATH - *Algebra I A Common Core Curriculum* - Larson & Boswell

## Supplies:

- Large 3 ring binder - items will be turned in, so a spiral notebook is inappropriate
- Pencils (I prefer not to grade work in pen)
- Graph paper
- Notebook Paper

**Note:** We discourage students to use calculators initially in algebra. When we do use the technology, we will encourage our students to download the DESMOS application on their phone or tablet to use in class. I also have graphing calculators available in the classroom for use as well.

## Course Overview:

Basic algebraic concepts will be covered and arithmetic skills will be reinforced during this course. Semester 1 will be devoted to linear equations and systems of linear equations. Second semester will focus on quadratic equations. Various other topics will be reviewed and taught but these are the main aspects of Algebra I.

## Grading System:

My policy states 60% of your grade is determined by assessments. This category includes quizzes, exit passes, and tests. The other 40% will be determined by classwork, homework, and projects. I use the Forsyth High School grading system to determine letter grade.

Unit test may be retaken for a better grade with the following restrictions -

1. All test corrections on completed on the correct form and checked by teacher before retest
2. Retest is given **after** school for maximum success
3. The 2<sup>nd</sup> test score replaces the grade in the gradebook
4. Retest must be taken before the next unit test occurs in class

## Rules and Expectations:

- Be prepared - Have your supplies at your desk before bell rings
- Be respectful - Please leave "my stuff" alone
- Be persistent - ASK, ASK, ASK, - I can't help if I don't know you're confused
- Be polite - no fighting, trash talk, or profanity allowed in my classroom - yeah, even hard for me!

#### Perks:

- Be involved with class - you earn Killebucks!
- Volunteer to work at the board - you earn Killebucks!
- Raise your hand to answer - you earn Killebucks!
- Outperform on your next quiz or test - you earn Killebucks!

What do you do with these Killebucks? Hoard 10 of them - get a homework exemption. Use them to purchase pens, pencils, and erasers, lead for mechanical pencils, folders, and Friday's popcorn. They are your currency in my class - you have to **buy** hall passes, restroom passes, and locker passes. Passes will cost you 2 Killebucks.

#### Consequences:

- 1<sup>st</sup> warning - verbal reminder to stay focused
- 2<sup>nd</sup> warning - automatic loss of daily grade (could be homework or test!)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> warning - stay 2 minutes after the bell, removed to hallway
- 4<sup>th</sup> warning - office referral for afterschool detention (with me), phone conference with parent
- Extreme offense - immediate suspension from class & AEA, personal conference with parent

#### Tardiness & Entering/Leaving the room:

- Do not be tardy - please get your supplies and find your seat before the bell finishes ringing - you always have a warm-up activity posted on the board.
- If you hang around the door at the end of class I will ask you to stay 2 minutes **after** the bell.
- For emergencies, you are expected to use the back doors near our classroom and stay in the group. I will write an office referral if you decide otherwise.

#### Intercom & Interruptions to the class:

- Remain on task and working if we are interrupted - if we have guests, be pleasant but do not stop working.
- I am the person being called on the intercom, do not answer it or cause a scene while I take the message.

#### Homework and Makeup Work:

Students will be given a pacing guide at the beginning of each chapter. This guide will contain dates, pages covered, and homework assignments for the entire chapter in advance. Students will be expected to collect their assignments prior to absences. Assignments not found in the textbook are available in the homework crate in class inside the appropriate folder. At the beginning of every week, Ms. Killebrew will announce the required assignments for that week's eligibility - any items not turned in by following Monday at 8 am will be recorded as a zero. Assignments can be turned in until the chapter test - i.e. no late assignments. No work is accepted beyond the chapter test date. Any missed tests due to absences must be made up in a reasonable amount of time - refer to office hours for feasible times for make ups.