

Foundations in Algebra Syllabus – 2020-2021

Instructor: Drew Ray

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Office Hours:

Face-to-face Operational Model: Mondays from 2:50-3:30 (Additional days offered as needed)

Remote Learning/Hybrid: Fridays 10:30 am - 11:45 am on Google Meet

Remote Learning: Monday and Thursdays 10:00-12:00am and 12:30-2:30pm via email

Course Description:

This algebra course is the backbone of high school mathematics. Foundational in Algebra is a course that will cover basic algebra concepts such as solving algebraic equations, analyzing and interpreting functions and relationships, using mathematical reasoning, and using algebraic skills to solve a wide range of problems. It is a foundational year of algebra that is important for success in upcoming mathematic classes. We will be working together to see how algebra is relevant and useful in today's world.

Classroom Materials

- 2 Compositions notebooks (1 per semester)
- Folder
- Pencils/erasers
- Colored pencils
- Graph paper
- Ruler
- Calculator (TI 83 or 84)

Grading Policies:

The grading scale in South Carolina is as follows:

A: 90-100

B: 80-89

C: 70-79

D: 60-69

F: 59 and below

Mastery Learning:

GTCHS is a mastery learning school and opportunities will be given to improve grades. If a student receives less than an 75% on a test, they may improve their grade by completing test corrections AFTER additional tutoring or an assignment is completed on the topic they are struggling with. Test corrections will be done during after school office hours. Failure to complete the additional tutoring or assignment and/or show up on the designated Monday to complete test corrections will result in the original grade becoming permanent. Test corrections can earn a maximum grade of 75%. Other opportunities for improvement will be given at the teacher's discretion. Any student with a class grade less than 75% is required to attend tutoring during office hours (on Mondays when Face-to-Face instruction and on Fridays during remote learning/hybrid). Individual or small group help will be given during office hours.

Grading will be broken down as follows:

Tests/Projects: 45%

Quizzes: 25%

Homework: 15%

Classwork: 15%

Dates for tests, projects, and quizzes are given in advance.

The exam at the end of the semester will be 10% of the class average.

Make up work during face-to-face:

Completing work on time is important to the success of the student. Late homework is not accepted. The student's homework grade is a zero if it is not turned in on time. If a student is absent, you have five school days (not class meetings) after you return to school to make up missed work. Make-up work will not be accepted after this time. It is the student's responsibility to see Mr. Ray when they are absent to receive any missing work.

Make up work during remote learning:

If a student misses an assignment during distance learning, a parent must follow up via email with a legitimate excuse before the work will be accepted late. If a student misses a test or quiz during distance learning, a parent must follow up via email with a legitimate excuse before the student can make up the assessment. Once the parent email is received, the student will need to work with Mr. Ray to determine a time to make up the test. If no parent email is received, the work will remain a zero. Without a parent email, the student may follow the mastery learning policy above to make up the test and achieve a grade no higher than a 75.

Gum, Food, or Drinks in Class:

Gum is prohibited in class. Food is not allowed unless approved by Mr. Ray. Students may have water or other school appropriate drinks that are in a container with a lid.

Cell Phone/Electronic Policy:

Cell phones and other electronic devices are to be put away (not in sight!) and either silenced or powered off during class time unless given permission from the teacher. If a cell phone is out during class, it may be collected and given to Mrs. Beaver to be picked up by the parent.

Classroom Rules:

1. Be positive and respectful.

Being respectful is important no matter where you are. It is expected that all students are respectful both to each other and the teacher. Disrespect includes interrupting during instruction, bullying in any form, and talking back/arguing with the teacher. This disrupts the learning environment of the classroom and will not be tolerated in anyway.

2. Be prepared.

Being prepared for class means all materials should be present in class (including homework) and ready to be used. It is also expected that you are on time to class each day and in your seat before the bell rings. The bathroom should be used between classes. If a student is tardy to class, they may not enter class without a pass.

3. Be productive.

We will be working from bell-to-bell during class. It is expected that you are an active participant. Refusing to work or sleeping during class is not an option.

4. Be honest.

I expect my students to be honest with me personally as a teacher as well as on your assignments. Copying homework is cheating. (It is okay to ask for help from a teacher, student, or parent but NOT okay to copy someone else's work.) All assignments turned in must be the student's own work. If a student is caught cheating, the grade will result in a zero or another appropriate punishment. It is also considered cheating if you give your homework to someone else to copy.

Schoolwide Norms During Remote Learning

1. Videos must remain on during synchronous instruction.
2. Students do not have to be in dress code, but they should be cognizant that they are on camera and be dressed appropriately based on our "out of uniform" Reward Day guidelines (page 6 of the Student Handbook) - obviously, they will only be seen from the waist up, so some of these are less important than others :).
 - All pants/shorts must be worn at the waist.
 - Jeggings/leggings must be worn with a shirt that is mid-thigh or longer.
 - Clothing that displays profanity, is provocative, reveals undergarments, or has suggestive phrases or advertisements is not permitted.
 - Hats/sunglasses may not be worn in the building.
 - Skirts may not be shorter than 3 inches above the knee (the length of your ID).
 - Shorts must be at least mid-thigh or longer. J
 - Jeans/pants with holes in them must not reveal visible skin.
3. Students should be sitting up - not laying down.
4. There should be a stable location for students and the background should not be distracting.
5. If there are other students or family in the room, they should wear headphones since other students are online with them taking part in the discussion.