

"Education is not a preparation for life; education is life itself." ~John Dewey

Course Description:

- ♣ Algebra I is a full year course intended for the freshmen student. Algebra attempts to clarify, simplify, unify, and broaden ideas in mathematics. The biggest difference between algebra and arithmetic is that algebra makes greater use of symbols to represent ideas and numbers. One purpose of algebra is to enable us to solve problems that would be difficult or impossible without its methods. It attempts to answer the recurring question "why" and to put emphasis on structure rather than manipulation.
- ♣ The mathematics curriculum is designed to teach students to be successful problem solvers. The building level 4-trait problem-solving model and also several types of thinking maps will be incorporated daily to assist with the instruction of problem solving. We will also incorporate reading and writing strategies to assist in successful reading comprehension and writing skills.
- ♣ Much of the year, you will be exposed to the Kansas Mathematics Standards and also the newly adopted Common Core Standards. The standards were created for the following two reasons: to assist educators in developing curriculum and also to serve as the basis for the development of assessments in mathematics. Because of the growing emphasis being placed on them, all homework, projects and tests will be directly related to these standards. Explanation, demonstration and modeling of the standards will take place in the classroom so that you know how the standards are used and how they apply to you.

"The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence."

~ Vince Lombardi

I, as a teacher, share the bond of a unique profession with millions of others worldwide. I not only have the responsibility of being an educator to you, the student, but to also act as a caregiver, counselor and guardian.

I believe in the saying that "Teachers Change the World.....One Student at a Time." Each student that I teach will bring their own unique characteristics, learning styles and attitudes to my classroom. It is my job to assist each individual student to achieve a successful level in learning the objectives in my class.

Mathematics is not difficult. Mathematics is just different, and time is the key factor that turns very foreign things into familiar ones. Since students learn at different speeds, I will make time available for before and after school assistance.

It is my belief that each of these students can learn and I am committed to providing an environment that promotes that learning. I will continue to demonstrate professional behavior and attitudes toward all of my students as I interact with them daily.

In return, I expect students to demonstrate good class participation, exhibit positive individual self-motivation, initiate essential academic assistance, establish themselves as leaders in the classroom and maintain exceptional grades in the classroom.

When you make a mistake, admit it; learn from it and don't repeat it." ~Bear Bryant

Behavior Expectations:

- ♣ **Allow me to Teach; Allow others to Learn.** The right to learn is the right of all students. Consequently, inappropriate behaviors that distract classmates will not be tolerated.
- ♣ **Respect Yourself, Respect Others.** Students will be expected to show respect to fellow students, teachers, administrators and facilities; and also to their ideas and property.
- ♣ **A disciplined person is one who does what needs to be done when it needs to be done.**
- ♣ **ADVOCATE** for yourself. Your words, your attire, and your actions describe to others who and what you are all about!!
- ♣ **No** food allowed in the classroom without permission from me. Only *clear water bottles with water* are allowed.
- ♣ **Cell Phones/mp3 players** should be turned off and stored in backpacks (not in clothes pockets) prior to coming to class.
- ♣ You will be allowed use of the "**Hall Pass**" for movement within the new building only. Any other destination will require signatures in your planner.
- ♣ The **Hanover High School Handbook** (found in your planner) outlines further expectations. Pay special attention to attendance, cell phones, and dress code!!

**"Success depends in a very large measure upon individual initiative
and cannot be achieved except by HARD WORK." ~Anna Pavlova**

Academic Expectations:

- ♣ Each and every student is expected to take responsibility for his/her learning by asking questions, completing work, attempting difficult or new concepts, and keeping a positive attitude.

- ♣ Be Prepared and Organized for Class. Supplies that you need to bring everyday include your textbook, loose-leaf paper, pencils/pens, ruler, protractor, compass and also a scientific calculator. *If you have corrective eyewear, I expect that you will wear it during class time.*

- ♣ Homework lessons are due at the beginning of the hour the following school day unless otherwise noted. (NO late work is accepted unless it is because of an absence.)
 - Excused Absence: One day grace period for each day that you were absent.
 - Unexcused Absence: No credit will be given for that day's work or anything due that day. Please be advised that this is true for every type of assignment, including tests and projects.
 - School Activity Absence: Work must be turned in to me **BEFORE** you leave for the activity.
 - Parent Permission Absence: Most generally, these absences will be treated like a school activity absence. I expect you to be communicating with me prior to these types of absences.
 - If you must be absent from class, **YOU** are responsible for getting any notes or lessons missed.

- ♣ Students are expected to use the entire hour for math work and math work only; however, if a student should complete this work before the end of the hour, they should bring other academic work to class. *(Should you want to work on math in other classrooms, you should have that instructor's permission first; should another instructor catch you working on math without their permission a score of zero will be recorded.)*

- ♣ Cheating on any type of assignment or test will result in a score of zero.

- ♣ If you are in need of extra assistance with the studying process, you are encouraged to come in before school or after school for additional facilitation. My contract time is from 7:55 a.m. until 3:45 p.m. I am usually at school by 7:30 in the morning (to answer questions on homework due for that day) and will often be available after 3:45 p.m. (to answer questions on homework that has been graded and returned to you OR questions on homework due the next school day)

- ♣ **DO NOT ALLOW YOURSELF TO GET BEHIND!!!**
Remember: Lack of planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part!!

"I've always believed that if you put in the work, the results will come."

~Michael Jordan

How do you earn your grade in this course?

- Homework (10 points per lesson)
- Tests (100 points per test)
- Projects, Quizzes and Folder/Notes (points will vary)

The best way to learn is by doing and a concept cannot be fully learned on the day it is introduced. Understanding will take time and constant practice over a long period of time is the key ingredient of success. Since you learn by doing the problems repetitively, you must work ALL the problems every day. If you do not work the problems, you will not learn. It's that simple. If you receive below a 70% on a test, then you are in danger of falling behind and will be asked to stay with me after school for remedial instruction.

If you are experiencing any difficulty within my classroom, I encourage and expect to hear from you first. If necessary, we will get parents, counselor, administration involved. Above all, if you are in doubt about anything.....ASK!!!! I am here for you!!

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Student Signature _____ Date _____ Parent Signature _____