

Algebra Foundations is a year-long course that prepares students for Algebra 1-2. The topics we cover in the first semester include review of operations and applications involving integers, fractions, percent and decimal forms of numbers, and simplifying variable expressions. We will also learn to solve all types of linear equations in a single variable. This will require knowledge of the distributive property and simplifying equations. We will use linear word problems that must be modeled by an equation and then solved algebraically. We will begin to explore the world of linear equations in two variables, and we will write linear equations and graph lines.

Since Algebra Foundations is the foundation of all math classes to come, you must demonstrate your competency or mastery of each topic we study. Students will be provided with multiple opportunities to apply the Drake High School Learning Principles and Common Core Mathematical Practices throughout the course.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Every day you will be expected to bring the following with you to class:

- Completed Homework
- Binder (or other organized system to manage handouts and homework pages)
- Graphing AND Lined Paper
- Pencil (with an eraser)
- A few colored pencils
- Scientific Calculator

You are expected to have these supplies at **HOME**:

- 12-inch ruler with centimeters
- Scientific Calculator
- Graphing AND Lined Paper
- Colored pencils

CALCULATORS

A **scientific calculator** will meet your needs in this course.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Unless otherwise specified, all electronic devices should be off and away during class time. When appropriate, students will use calculators, iPads, and/or computers. Texting is not permitted in class.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments will be graded on format, quality, effort, and a degree of correctness. Work must be shown in a neat and organized fashion. **You must show your work to receive credit!**

- Homework will be assigned every night, and you will have a quiz over homework problems weekly.
- Check the website for homework assignments and test and quiz announcements.
- Check the homework solutions on the website.
- All problems should be **attempted**. I expect students to spend about to 20-30 minutes per assignment to try to figure out as many of the problems as needed.
- If you need extra help, please come in during tutorial as soon as you are having difficulties. It may also be useful to meet with another student from the class to receive help.
- Some class time will be devoted to homework and warm-up discussions and questions.
- Homework is expected to be completed on time, and late homework should not become a habit. To receive credit for late homework, please read the late homework policy.

LATE HOMEWORK

All homework should be completed on time. If circumstances occasionally prevent the completion of homework, here are the conditions that must be met to receive credit for a late assignment.

- An assignment must be turned in no later than the last class period of the week after the assignment was given.
- A late assignment must accompany the current assignment due on a given day.
- Only one late assignment per day will be accepted.
- If late homework becomes a chronic problem, we will need to meet with parents, counselors, and/or administrators for additional intervention strategies.

ASSESSMENTS

Students should expect to have some form of an assessment (quiz, test, project, etc.) every week. Study for these! Quiz scores may be increased if a student shows improvement on subsequent quizzes that assess comparable content and skills. One low quiz score will be dropped at the end of each semester.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

It is very important that you attend this class every day. You will need to be up-to-date with the material at all times since most of the topics build upon each other. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you have missed.

- Check the website! If you are absent the day before a quiz, but attended the lessons that cover the topics on a scheduled quiz, you will be expected to take the quiz.
- Please do not miss assessments. If you are absolutely unable to attend class for an assessment, you should be prepared to make up any missed assessments upon your return to class. If possible, make arrangements through email to take any missed quizzes or tests as soon as possible.
- Homework assigned during the absence is due within a time period that is equal to the number of days missed.
- Unexcused absences will result in a 0 for that day's work.

ORGANIZATION FOR INSTRUCTION AND LEARNING

The work in class will be done in study groups, often with a partner, or individually. There will also be whole class discussions. The goal is to gain confidence, conceptual understanding, and good algebraic skills, but you must be patient and persistent. Algebra problems often require multiple steps before an answer can be determined, and the first step is not always obvious. The best thing to do if you are stuck is to just try something. If that doesn't work, ask someone for help. Remember that helping others is a good way to reinforce what you have learned, and it will help establish relationships that can benefit you in times of need. Always be respectful and helpful to other students in the class.

EXTRA HELP

You can receive extra help during class time and tutorials offered on Wednesdays and Fridays. There are also several good websites dedicated to providing students with additional math help. Khan Academy is great.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Cheating or copying another student's work is a serious ethical breach of conduct and it is contrary to the learning process. If there is an incident of academic dishonesty, all school and district policies will be followed, including informing your parents and the administration. The assignment will receive 0 points.

GRADES

A	92-100%	B	82-87%	C	73-77%	D	63-67%
A-	90-91%	B-	80- 81%	C-	70-72%	D-	60-62%
B+	88-89%	C+	78-79%	D+	68-69%	F	0-59%

I use the on-line grading system, and promptly enter grades after current assessments. You may view your progress in the course, but please note that homework grades will be updated periodically throughout the grading periods, not daily.

SEMESTER GRADE WEIGHTING PERCENTAGES

25%	<u>Homework and Classwork</u>
75%	<u>Quizzes and Tests</u>

Your goal is to learn and prove your learning through the tasks we do. As such, if you are not demonstrating your learning of the course topics, you will not be promoted to Algebra 1-2 until you have. For example, if you are turning in assignments, but not passing tests to prove you have learned what you practiced on the assignments, you will not pass the course.