

Algebra 1

Algebra 1 is the first course in the regular mathematics sequence. It follows the benchmarks and standards of the Michigan Merit Curriculum. There will be an emphasis on developing algebra skills while adding depth to problem-solving. **This is a required course for graduation.** It is important for you to be aware of the credit requirements and your progress toward meeting them. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

The following items are recommended for this course:



- ◆ A scientific calculator and the Desmos app. I will have a class set of TI-30XIIS calculators.
- ◆ A half-inch or 1-inch binder (with pockets) to organize your work and house notes, study guides, and handouts.

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MY GRADING SCALE FOR THE MARKING PERIOD

◆ **ASSIGNMENTS / CLASS PARTICIPATION**

During each marking period I will collect assignments, which will be given two to three times per week. Each assignment will be due two days after it is assigned, however, **YOU ARE EXPECTED TO USE CLASS TIME EFFECTIVELY. I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO ASSIGN A ZERO GRADE BASED ON A LACK OF PARTICIPATION.** You will have multiple opportunities in class to ask questions and I will read off the answers prior to collecting the assignment. Assignments will be out of 4 points and will be graded on structure and completion, not on correctness. **Mistakes will be made. I want to stress the importance of effort and practice.** If you hand in an assignment partially completed, you will receive 1 to 3 points for it depending on how much is completed. **Late papers are not accepted.**

**ASSIGNMENTS ARE NOT COMPLETE IF THEY CONTAIN ANSWERS ONLY.
MAKE YOUR THINKING VISIBLE!**

◆ **ASSESSMENTS – (TESTS, QUIZZES, FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS, ONLINE MODULES)**

Point totals on these items will vary and these points will make up the assessment portion of your grade. In a quarter marking period, approximately 4 to 5 assessments are given. **THERE ARE NO RETAKES ON TESTS AND QUIZZES.**

◆ **INTERACTIVE NOTEBOOK**

You will maintain a notebook in this class (binder) and you are expected to bring it each day. This notebook will help you stay organized and will house notes, examples, and different activities.

◆ **EXTRA POINTS**

I will periodically offer extra points for certain tasks. As an example, chapter warm-ups may count as extra points toward your grade. Extra credit is at my discretion, and I suggest that you take advantage of these opportunities.

◆ **EXTRA HELP**

I fully expect that you will give this course your best effort. If you feel that you are still in need of extra help, do not hesitate to ask for it. I am more than willing to help you learn and I am available before and after school if necessary. There are also plenty of support options if you need additional assistance.

Algebra 1

◆ HOW YOUR GRADE IS CALCULATED

Your grade will be calculated using weighted percentages. Assessments will count for 75% of your grade, while assignments will make up the other 25%. Per district policy, homework points may account for a maximum of 25% of the overall grade. Points are accumulated from the following categories:

Assessments (75%)

(Point totals vary)

Tests, Quizzes,
Formative Assessments,
Online Modules

Assignments / Participation (25%)

(4 points each)

◆ GRADING SCALE FOR TESTS AND QUIZZES

PERCENTAGE:

A+	98 – 100
A	93 – 97
A-	90 – 92
B+	87 – 89
B	83 – 86
B-	80 – 82
C+	77 – 79
C	73 – 76
C-	70 – 72
D+	67 – 69
D	63 – 66
D-	60 – 62
E	50 – 59
F	0 – 49

MATERIALS

**IN ADDITION TO YOUR TEXTBOOK,
YOU SHOULD HAVE A CALCULATOR,
FOLDER / BINDER, PAPER, AND
PENCIL TO START CLASS EACH DAY.**

◆ SCHOOLGY

Schoology will still serve as a platform for class structure. Schoology may be used for course documents, online practice modules, and possibly some assessments. This will also serve as a communication tool.

◆ CLASS WEBSITE

My class web page (linked to your Schoology course) can be accessed to view weekly lesson plans and instructional links. There are some very good links (some interactive) that can help tremendously with particular concepts. The site address is as follows:

www.mrkovacs.weebly.com

Algebra 1

◆ MY EXPECTATIONS

MY CLASS IS A RED ZONE (PHONE USE AT MY DISCRETION). CELL PHONES SHOULD BE CHECKED IN ON THE FRONT TABLE UNLESS I SPECIFY OTHERWISE. AIRPODS / EARBUDS SHOULD BE OUT OF EARS AND PUT AWAY.

I expect you to be on time.

I expect you to wear your ID.

I expect you to come to class prepared.

I expect you to sit in your assigned seat.

I expect you to respect the room, and each other.

I expect you to follow all school rules.

I expect you to concentrate on learning the material presented instead of only being concerned with what your grade is at a certain moment.

You are responsible for obtaining notes / work missed if you are absent. Homework is still due on the assigned date. Extended absences will be given more time.

If you miss the day of a test or quiz, you will take it the day you return. If you miss the day before a test or quiz, you will take it on the same day as the rest of the class. Again, extended absences will be given more time.

Above all else, I do not expect you to be perfect. Part of learning is overcoming your mistakes. However, I do expect you to consistently give your absolute best effort. I will take you seriously as a student if you take your studies seriously. I'm looking forward to a great semester!

◆ WHAT I WANT FOR YOU

I want you to prepare for a useful life. I want you to be able to think for yourself when you are out in the world on your own. I want you to have good character and make sound decisions about your life, your work, and your health. I want you to face life's joys and travails with courage and humor. I hope that you will be kind and compassionate in your dealings with others. I want you to have a sense of justice and fairness. I want you to understand our nation and our world and the challenges we face. I want you to be an active, responsible citizen, prepared to think issues through carefully, to listen to differing views, and to reach decisions rationally. I want you to enjoy the rich artistic and cultural heritage of our society and other societies. And most importantly, for this class, I want you to learn mathematics and its applications so you can quantify and understand the problems of modern life and participate in finding solutions.

- Mr. Kovacs

Algebra 1

Semester 2 – 2023-2024

I have read the syllabus and am aware of the expectations / requirements placed upon me / my student by taking this course. This is your first recorded assignment (assignment #1).

Student Name (Printed)

Hour

Student Signature

Parent Name (Printed)

Parent Signature

To reference the syllabus, go to Schoology! Remember, everything you need is on Schoology!

My e-mail (this is preferred): kovacst@wskids.net

My school number: (586) 825-2700 x14523

Lesson plans can be found on Schoology or at: mrkovacs.weebly.com

Semester 2 Outline

In addition to the following units, we will also spend time with preparation, strategies, and content for the PSAT that will be given in April.

Chapter 4 – Linear and Nonlinear Functions

Chapter 5 – Creating Linear Equations

Chapter 6 – Linear Inequalities

Chapter 7 – Systems of Linear Equations

Chapter 8 – Exponents and Roots

Chapter 10 – Polynomials

Chapter 11 – Quadratic Functions