

MS. AMIRKHAN

Email: bamirkhan.ahs@wscuhsd.k12.ca.us

## ALGEBRA 1 COURSE SYLLABUS

Welcome to Algebra 1! Algebra 1 is the first course in the regular college prep program at Analy High School. The University of California system (like UC Berkeley or UC Santa Barbara) and the State University system (like Sonoma State) require 3 years of college prep math: Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2. Many colleges require that students have a fourth year of math as well (Trigonometry and/or Calculus). Algebra 1 is also an excellent preparation for JC studies and for professions that use math (and most of them do).

The best plan for future success (and you never know what you might end up doing) is to get a good foundation in Algebra 1 by working hard to do your best. In Algebra 1 you learn basic skills that are important not only in future math classes, but in the sciences and computer programming as well. Just like learning how to read gives you access to information beyond your imagination, learning the basics of mathematics and problem solving gives you access to careers that you might never have dreamed about. "Doing math" is the best way to keep your options for the future open, so get ready to work hard and to achieve success!



**Her answer off by miles, Shella's "cow sense" was always a target of ridicule.**

**TEXT:** The text used for this class is Algebra 1; McDougal Littell. The entire text can be found online along with tutoring help, extra practice and practice tests! To access the text and resources, follow these directions:

- ⇒ Go to: <http://activate.classzone.com>
- ⇒ The page will open and redirect you to another page.
- ⇒ Put in the activation code: 3490947 -10 (be sure to fill in the first 7 digits in the first box and the last two digits in the second box)
- ⇒ You will then be directed in the creation of a student account.

**MATERIALS YOU'LL NEED ASAP:**

1. **3-ring binder:** You will need a 1.5 or 2 inch binder for Algebra. Unless you want to carry around a HUGE binder, it won't work to just have an "Algebra section" in a binder with your other classes. We will be moving papers in and out of the binder so **spiral notebooks won't work.**
2. **Binder dividers:** We will organize our notebooks into sections, so these are essential. You will at least need the following sections: class info, assignment sheets, notes, homework, and word problems. You might also want to have a section for daily quizzes.
3. **Pencils:** Since all of your work this year must be done in pencil, you'll want to have a lot of these on hand.
4. **Colored pen:** We will be grading our daily quizzes and homework together. Black pen and pencil do not show up very clearly. Please get a colored pen that will stand out against your work. No highlighters please.
5. **Eraser:** Everyone needs to erase in math, so get a couple of erasers that erase without tearing up the paper. The long white erasers that come in a case that looks like a pencil work best.
6. **Binder paper:** Get a whole pack – you'll need it!
7. **Graph paper:** You will need paper with 4 or 5 squares per inch. A green engineering pad (available at the SRJC bookstore) is also great and is too cool to imagine.
8. **Scientific Calculator:** A scientific calculator will be adequate for Algebra 1. In Algebra 2 and above, you will need a graphing calculator. If you choose to get a graphing calculator now, I suggest you get a TI-84. **You may not use the calculator on your cell phone.**

**\*\* Please have these things by next Tuesday or Wednesday (August 23 or August 24), depending on when OUR class meets \*\***

**HOMEWORK:** In a math class, one cannot master the material without enough practice. Therefore, homework will be a very important part of the course and of your grade.

1. Each assignment is worth **4 POINTS**. There is no reason you should not get most of the homework points if you do all of your homework and make a reasonable effort. The problems do not all have to be correct, but they should not be all wrong. To receive the full four points, you must follow my format for homework (see assignment sheet), **attempt all** assigned problems showing **all work** including the **original problem**.

2. Since we do not meet daily, you will often get two assignments on the same day. It will be hard to get both of them done the night before, so I suggest you make yourself a study schedule (including some weekend time) and discipline yourself to stick to it. In order to pass this class you must have a passing grade on your homework. Your homework average will be computed at the end of each quarter. ***In the event that your homework average is less than 70% and you are still in the class when grades are submitted, your grade will be lowered by a full letter grade (i.e. a grade of B is lowered to a C). This includes semester grades!***
3. Homework is due at the beginning of the next class. You will receive handouts listing assignments and if I forget to mention it in class, you should always assume that your assignment is listed in the next block on the sheet. I suggest you get the phone number of a classmate, so that you can call to double-check on the assignment if you have missed class.

When you have an **excused** absence, please make up missed assignments as soon as possible. After a weekend has passed, you should be completely caught up.

I understand that other things come up on occasion that may keep you from completing your homework. Please TALK TO ME when this happens. I will accept late homework for half credit, but once we have begun a new chapter, late homework will not be accepted at all!

4. All assignments must be completed in **PENCIL** on **LOOSE-LEAF** binder or graph paper. **Paper from a spiral notebook will not be accepted unless the rough edges are cut off (my pet peeve..). Assignments in pen or on other types of paper will not be graded.**
5. Homework is an invaluable study tool. **Be sure to make note of the problems that required correction – these are important problems to study before a test.**

## TESTS AND QUIZZES:

1. **Daily quizzes** will be given to test your understanding of the current material. There will be no make-up daily quizzes since only two quizzes per week will be counted. If you are tardy, you will not receive credit for your daily quiz.
2. **Chapter quizzes** will be given midway through our coverage of each chapter and will cover three or four sections in the text. **Chapter tests** will cover the entire chapter. Lectures, assigned reading, daily quiz and homework problems are all possible items for tests and quizzes. **Please note** that there will be no make-up for tests/quizzes if they are missed with an unexcused absence. If the absence is excused, you will have a **one-time** opportunity to make up the test/quiz at the tutorial immediately following your

absence. It is your responsibility to determine what you need to make-up when you are absent.

3. You will be given **ONE** opportunity per **semester** to re-take a chapter test (not quiz) and raise your test grade to a maximum of 75%. To qualify for a retest, you will need to come in to the first tutorial following the original test and show me a plan for reviewing the material covered on the test. At the next tutorial, you can take another form of the test.

## OTHER POINTS:

1. **PARTICIPATION** - Your total point score will also be affected by the quality of your participation in class each day. Participation is worth 15 points each quarter. Points will be given for activities such as going to the board to explain problems, contributing during class, coming to tutorial, doing extra problems as I suggest them, etc.. You will lose participation points if you choose to disregard the classroom rules. After you earn 15 points, any additional points you earn will be treated as **extra-credit!!!** There will be a limit on the number of extra-credit points you can earn.
2. **PORTFOLIO** – As explained above, you will be expected to organize your work in a notebook that will serve as your working portfolio. This portfolio of your work will represent your efforts and achievements throughout the year and will give you an opportunity to see your growth over time. Many students keep their portfolios to use as a reference in Algebra 2 and when preparing for the SAT.

## COMPUTING YOUR GRADE:

You can compute your grade at any time during the year by adding up your points and dividing by the total number of points possible. Your grade will be cumulative (i.e., we will not "start over" each quarter). Grades will be posted (by ID number) every two weeks so you will always know how you are doing.

**A** 90% - 100%  
**B** 80% - 89%

**C** 70% - 79%  
**D** 58% - 69%

**F** below 58%

Your semester grade (this is the grade that colleges look at) is determined by your overall point percent (this is 80% of your semester grade) and a cumulative final exam (this is 20% of your semester grade). Please note that you **will not** be able to make-up any of the work assigned on the day(s) you miss due to an unexcused absence.