## ALGEBRA I – Syllabus 2009/2010
## Mr. Shea
## Textbook: <u>Algebra I</u>, McDougal Littell, 2007

*Whatever your difficulties in mathematics, I can assure you mine are far greater.*
*-Albert Einstein*

Welcome to the wonderful world of Algebra!!!  Algebra I is the first course in the regular college prep program at Analy High School.  Both the UC and the CSU systems require 3 years of college prep math – Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. Algebra I is also an excellent preparation for JC studies and for most professions that use math (and most of them do).

In this course, basic concepts are emphasized, and algebra is presented as a logical system.  It is expected that a student will learn the properties of real numbers, solve first degree equations, graph linear equations, solve and graph systems of equations, and solve and graph quadratic equations.

### Daily Schedule-
Our normal routine will consist of 5-10 minute warm-ups, which will be on the board or overhead projector by the time the tardy bell rings, followed by a discussion of previous day's homework, problem or project.  New material will be presented either by lecture, A/V presentation, through individual or small group activity, or some combination of these methods.  On most days, there will be time in class to work on assignments.

### Student Responsibilities and Expectations-
Students are expected to be in their assigned seats and prepared to work by the tardy bell.  You are responsible for bringing your textbook, math notebook and pencil to class every day.  A calculator is highly recommended; we will discuss in class the various options available.  Calculators may not be allowed on all tests.  Graph paper will be required in some sections, green or white paper with 4 or 5 squares per inch is acceptable.

### Grading Policy-
The quarter grades will be determined as follows:

|  |  |  |
|---|---|---|
| Tests/ Quizzes | – | 60% |
| HW | – | 30% |

*Note: Students with less than 65% in homework can earn no higher than a "D"*

|  |  |  |
|---|---|---|
| Other | _ | 10% |

    i.e. - Participation, Projects, Portfolio

The overall semester grade will be calculated as follows:

|  |  |  |
|---|---|---|
| Cummulative quarter grades | – | 80% |
| Semester Final | – | 20% |

I use a standard grading scale, with plus or minus grades awarded within each grade level.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| A | - | 100% - 90% |
| B | - | 89% - 80% |
| C | - | 79% - 70% |
| D | - | 69% - 60% |
| F | - | below 59% |

Grades will be posted by student ID number on a biweekly basis so students will always know how they are doing in my class. Grades will also be available online on my web page at the Analy website.

## Tests and Quizzes-

Chapter Tests will be worth approximately 100 points and will occur at the end of each chapter. Quizzes will be worth 10 – 50 points and will occur throughout the semester. For <u>excused</u> absences, make-ups will be allowed within two tutorial periods. A cut results in a grade of F for any quiz or test missed. There is to be no speaking during the tests. Students may work on materials or assignments from other classes quietly after they have finished, as long as they don't disturb others still taking the test.
The school has a very strict policy on cheating. Anybody caught cheating will receive an automatic "F" and a referral to the administration. **Don't risk it!!!**

## Assignments and Homework –

Regular practice is the key to success in nearly every endeavor. This is especially true in mathematics, where assignments and homework serve as daily practice. **You can not do well in Algebra if you do not do your homework!!!**

- Homework will be assigned everyday, some assignments will be due in class; others will become homework if not finished in class.
- You must copy the original problem and show all your work for each problem to receive full credit.
- You are responsible for checking your homework answers from the back of your textbook for the odd problems. Do not just copy the answer or you will not receive credit. The answers for even numbered problems will be presented in class.
- Homework may be collected or checked for completion and recorded electronically.
   *It is your responsibility to keep up with your homework!!!*

## Projects-

A variety of projects–some large, some small–will be assigned during the year. The purpose of these projects is to expand on concepts learned in class and to relate the work we are doing to the real world. Specific explanations and instructions will be given at the time that they are assigned. Projects are generally due one to two weeks after they are assigned. Late projects will lose 10% for each class period they are late.
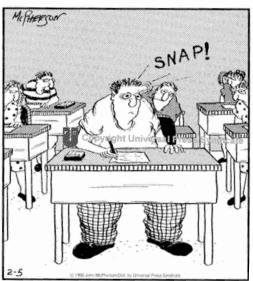
## Participation-

Students earn participation points by participating in group discussions, presenting problems on the board, asking questions and being on task during warm-ups and in class assignments. Students lose participation points by not coming to class prepared and being disruptive. A Participation grade rubric will be discussed in class and available online. Grades will be assigned at the end of each quarter.

## Discipline Policy-

- Your school handbook outlines the policy on unexcused absences and tardiness, familiarize yourself with the consequences before you slip into bad habits.
- Be courteous and respectful to everyone. Rudeness will not be tolerated. Remember: rudeness is how your words or actions make another feel, not what you meant.
- No swearing or name-calling.
- Electronic distractions (cell phones, iPods, etc.) are not OK in class.

Consequences–
- warning
- loss of participation points
- conference with student, or student and parents
- referral to administration

I have read and understand the syllabus for Mr. Shea's Algebra 1 class.


Student Signature_____Date_____


Parent/Guardian Signature_____ Date_____