

ALGEBRA 1-2

2011/2012

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GENERAL OUTLINE- This course is the PPS adopted Freshman algebra course. All materials and expectations are at the high school level. PPS policy is to grant high school credit to 7th & 8th graders who maintain a C or higher throughout the year. Major topics include polynomial arithmetic, graphing in one and two variables, solving linear equations, solving systems of linear equations in two variables, solving both factorable and non-factorable quadratic equations, and solving inequalities. My goal is to finish 9 out of 12 chapters.

TAG DISCLOSURE- As is the case with all students, math instruction will be delivered to each student based on appropriate rate and level. If you feel Algebra 1-2 is not the appropriate level let me know right away. In no case will I approve an individual rate slower than the class, however if a TAG identified student wishes to do independent study at an accelerated rate that can be arranged. Please contact me by email (dingamells@pps.net).

GRADES- Grades will be the traditional 90% A, 80% B, and so on, weighted 40% for assignments. Tests will count for 60%. Retests may be available, but only for students who keep their homework completion above 95%. If there are four or more tests during a trimester the student will have the opportunity to throw one test score out.

ATTENDANCE- It is critical that students be present every day if at all possible. Much of math is sequential and any days missed become major impediments to mastering concepts. Individuals normally miss several days each year for rehearsals, field trips, and illness; please do not plan unnecessary additional absences.

ASSIGNMENTS/ HOMEWORK- You should expect to see homework assignments nearly every day. I distribute an assignment list at the beginning of each quarter. In addition to homework there is almost always class work done in groups; some of this work is turned in and counts toward the grade. Students should stay current with assignments when they are absent and turn them in as soon as they return to class. I will not accept late work without a written excuse.

SUPPLIES- There are a couple of items necessary for math in addition to general supplies you would need for any class. One is a calculator. For this course any scientific calculator will suffice. They usually cost around \$10-15. Don't lose your user manual. Another item is grid paper. Quarter inch is nice. I have seen grid paper post-it notes (which are really convenient for sticking in the middle of an assignment) but I don't know where they can be purchased.

ADDITIONAL HELP- I strongly suggest that students find homework study partners; this is something that successful college students do routinely. I am usually available any day before school and Tuesday or Thursday until 3:30 PM. I will also take phone calls at home until 9:00 PM. My home phone number is 503-284-9076.