

Class expectations and guidelines

The subject of Algebra involves the use of letters to represent numbers in arithmetic relationships. While you have already explored the basic concepts of Algebra, this course will delve deeper into each topic and introduce some new ideas including imaginary numbers, logarithms, and conic sections.

If you need additional help with any of the course material, there is after school tutoring available (Tues & Thurs), or see me outside of class. While you are in my class, here are a few additional things to know:

Students will be expected to:

1. Come to class every day and be **on time**. Detentions will be given for tardies per school policy.
2. Treat each other and the teacher with respect at all times.
3. Come to class prepared (with pencil, paper, textbook, notebook, and calculator).
4. Keep distractions (i.e. cell phones, mp3 players, make-up, etc.) stored away and out of sight.
5. Keep gum, food, and beverages (with the exception of water) outside the classroom.

Grade breakdown will be as follows:

Quarter grades: 75% Tests and quizzes (not including semester final exams)
25% In class assignments, homework assignments, and notebook checks

Semester grade: 40% First quarter grade
40% Second quarter grade
20% Final exam grade

A: 90% or above
B: 80% - 89%
C: 70% - 79%
D: 60% - 69%
F: Below 60%

Daily assignments and homework

Assignments will be collected on a daily basis. Each assignment will be graded for completeness (all problems attempted) as well as for accuracy (select problems graded for correctness). Your work must be neat and legible and you must ***show your work*** to receive full credit.

*** Late work will not be accepted unless it is work missed due to an *excused* absence**

- If absent only on the day the assignment is due, it must be turned in the day you return to class.
- If absent on the day the assignment is given, you have up to one week after you return to make it up.

Emergency late pass: *Once per quarter*, you will be allowed to use a late pass to turn in an assignment after the due date has passed. I will keep track of when this is used.

Tests and quizzes

A test will be given at the end of each chapter from the textbook. One or two quizzes will be given per chapter as well. Since a large majority of your grade in the class depends on your test and quiz scores, it is important that you keep up with the assignments and seek help when you do not understand the concepts.

Notebook checks

Notebooks will be graded at least once per quarter. They will be graded on having 4 *divided sections*: "Warm-ups", "Notes", "Returned Assignments", and "Returned Quizzes." They will be graded for completeness and organization. Notes and quizzes must be kept for the entire school year. The warm-ups and assignments only need to be kept for each quarter.

Final thoughts

Attendance, effort, organization, and participation in class, as well as time spent on assignments outside of class are all key factors to your success. If you are deficient in any one of these areas, it will show in your test performance and in your overall grade. Again, if you are struggling, ASK FOR HELP! If you have concerns outside of class time, please feel free to contact me via e-mail (more likely to get a quick response) or by voice mail. I look forward to getting to know each of you better throughout the year.

Sincerely,

e-mail: clui@srcs.k12.ca.us

voice mail: 528-5780 ext. 6223

Ms. Lui

Course Syllabus

The following topics will be covered throughout the year in this Algebra 3-4 course:

- Equations and Inequalities
- Linear Equations and Functions
- Linear Systems and Matrices
- Quadratic Functions and Factoring
- Polynomials and Polynomial Functions
- Rational Exponents and Radical Functions
- Exponential and Logarithmic Functions
- Rational Functions
- Quadratic Relations and Conic Sections
- Counting Methods and Probability
- Data Analysis and Statistics
- Sequences and Series

Supplies List

The following items will be required to have in class

- Textbook
- 3-ring binder (or spiral-bound notebook with folders, can be shared with other subjects)
- 4 labeled dividers (“Warm-ups”, “Notes”, “Returned Assignments”, “Returned Quizzes”)
- lined paper
- graph paper
- scientific calculator AND graphing calculator (see below for details)
- ruler
- pencils and eraser
- This handout in a plastic sheet protector at the front of your notebook

Calculator requirement

For this course, you will be required to have a scientific calculator and graphing calculator in order to participate in the class. The scientific calculator is something you should have used in your geometry class, which you were required to pass in order to take this Algebra 3-4 course.

The graphing calculator will also be required for more in depth lessons involving the use of this powerful technology. This tool is not only used to help students explore the graphical representations of various functions, it will also save time when solving matrices and will help simplify some tedious calculations, specifically when we explore combinations and permutations.

We recommend either the **TI-83 or TI-84** series of graphing calculators for this purpose. The TI-83 Plus model will be used in class demonstrations on an overhead projector. The TI-84 series calculators are very similar to the TI-83 models, with some basic upgrades to memory and computing power.

We highly recommend that you purchase your own graphing calculator. The graphing calculators cost about \$100, so write your name on it as soon as you buy one. If this is not feasible, a limited number of TI-83 Plus graphing calculators are available to be checked out from the school library. You can also look into buying a used graphing calculator through e-Bay, Craig’s List, or other sources.

The graphing calculator may be used during some of the tests and quizzes, depending on the material covered in the chapter. Due to the power of these graphing calculators to graph functions just by entering the equation, there will be some tests and quizzes in which the graphing calculator will not be allowed. For these assessments, you will want to have a scientific calculator available. I will let you know ahead of time which type of calculator will be allowed for upcoming tests or quizzes.