

Academic Plan

Algebra 1 – STEM High School – Fall 2018

Teacher: Mr. Travis E-mail: mtravis@lwsd.org

Office Hours:

Morning	7-7:30	7-7:30	7-7:30	7-7:30	7-7:30
	M	T	W	Th	F
Afternoon	2:30-3	2:30-3:30	---	2:30-3:30	2:30-3

Goals of this class:

All students will become confident in their abilities to do mathematics, demonstrate an ability to communicate and reason mathematically, and become problem solvers.

Our Text: Big Ideas Math, Algebra 1: A Common Core Curriculum.

Topics Covered:

- Unit 1 – Solving Linear Equations
- Unit 2 – Solving Linear Inequalities
- Unit 3 – Graphing Linear Functions
- Unit 4 – Writing Linear Functions
- Unit 5 – Solving Systems of Linear Equations
- Unit 6 – Exponential Functions and Sequences
- Unit 7 – Polynomial Equations and Factoring
- Unit 8 – Graphing Quadratic Functions
- Unit 9 – Solving Quadratic Equations
- Unit 10 – Radical Functions and Equations
- Unit 11 – Data Analysis and Displays

Course Materials: Paper (both lined and graph), Pencil, Pen, Graphing Calculator

About Calculators: Calculators are a very valuable tool and will be used regularly in the classroom. That said, they are no replacement for the computing capacity of our brains and you will be expected to function without them as well. A few graphing calculators will be available to students in the classroom, but not for overnight checkout. The TI-83 and TI-84 are highly recommended and are most commonly used in the high school setting. The TI-89 has some nice added functionality for students planning to further their career in mathematics but is not necessary, even for Calculus. The TI-NSpire series is also very powerful and flexible, especially if you purchase the version with the included TI-84 keyboard. It is highly recommended that you have your manual with you in class if you use anything other than the TI-83 or TI-84.

Course Outcomes: Along with 44 other states, the State of Washington and therefore Lake Washington School District is currently in transition, moving from the State Standards in Mathematics to the “Common Core State Standards for Mathematics”. For more information on the Common Core, you can visit www.corestandards.org. More specifically, the specific Mathematics Standards can be found at: http://www.corestandards.org/assets/CCSSI_Math%20Standards.pdf

Conduct in the Classroom: Students will observe a reasonable code of conduct:

- Respect your rights and the rights of others to a meaningful education without interference.
- Never commit an act intended to injure another person (verbally or physically)
- Use of profanity or any other form of disrespect will not be tolerated.
- No food or drink allowed in the classroom. Water is acceptable.
- Classroom expectations remain the same even with a guest teacher.

Powerschool/Skyward: A Powerschool site will be available for this course. That site will house a copy of this document, a calendar, as well as other resources for students. Grades will be posted via Skyward regularly.

Grading Policies

Daily Practice: Practice problems will be given out each day, as needed. The majority of these will be done online through bigideasmath.com.

Summative Assessments: Unit Assessments will be given at the end of each Unit. We will also have quizzes along the way to gauge student mastery of concepts prior to the end of the Unit. Unit Assessments will be scored out of 100 points with quizzes usually between 25 and 50 points.

Calculation of Grade: Points are cumulative throughout the semester. Quarter grades are not averaged to create a final semester grade. Grades will be calculated based on the weighted categories and grading scales below:

Category	Weight
Homework	10 %
Summative Assessments	70 %
MidTerm/Final – Comprehensive Finals will be administered at the end of First semester and at the end of the year	20 %

Grading Scale			
A	90 – 100%	C+	77 – 79.9%
B+	87 – 89.9%	C	73 – 76.9%
B	83 – 86.9%	C-	70 – 72.9%
B-	80 – 82.9%	NC	Below 70%

- Individual opportunities for extra credit are not available. Do not ask. Any extra credit possibilities will be made available to the entire class.
- Students are encouraged to show all work on quizzes and tests. Partial credit may be rewarded at the teacher’s discretion.
- Final Grades will not be rounded.

Test Retakes

You will be allowed one test retake per quarter. The highest score you may receive on a retake is an 88%. If you score worse on the retake, you will not get to keep the higher grade, so make sure you are prepared for the retake.

Dealing with Absences

Tests and Quizzes: If you are gone on the day of a quiz or test, you will be expected to make up that assessment on the day of your return. That will be done during class time unless you are able to arrange transportation to make up the assessment during office hours so that you do not miss any new material in class that day. If the absence was multiple days, you are expected to meet with the instructor upon your return to discuss makeup of what you missed. Exams missed due to an unexcused absence will receive a score of 40% and may not be made up.

Communication (Email/Conference)

Assignments will be posted on www.bigideasmath.com. Students and parents alike are encouraged to make visiting that website a regular part of monitoring progress in this course. Any time a student is absent from school, it is expected that they visit the site to find any work that was missed on the day in question. Grades are maintained in the Skyward program. I encourage you to monitor grades regularly and contact me immediately with any issues or concerns regarding grades.

Students are encouraged to claim ownership of their performance in this class through diligent monitoring of grades and regular communication with the instructor regarding any concerns. Parents are also encouraged to contact me via email whenever concerns arise. I am also available to meet with students and/or parents should you desire a face-to-face conference to discuss any facet of this course or the student's performance.

The preferred method of communication with me is via email and I do my best to always respond within 48 hours. I seldom check voicemail so that is not a reliable way to make contact with me if you have concerns you wish to discuss.

Other Miscellany

Tardies: You are expected to be in your assigned seat, prepared to begin working at the start of class. You will be allowed 2 tardies during the semester. After the 3rd tardy, home contact will be made.

Cell Phones and MP3 Players:

Cell phones and MP3 Players can be valuable tools in organizing our lives. However, they can also be a distraction to the learning environment if used at inappropriate times. They can interrupt the learning environment and be a distraction if they ring or are stolen. Sending/receiving text messages during class is also unacceptable. These items should be turned off or silenced during classtime and stowed away. Messages may be accessed between classes and at lunch.

Academic Honesty: The STEM academic honesty policy will be enforced. Students will frequently work together in class, and we encourage students to work together outside of class as well. However, it is the responsibility of each student to understand the material and present their own work, not the work of another student. Copying of an assignment will result in no credit for the assignment, for both the student copying the assignment and for the student allowing the copying to take place.