



## ALGEBRA I SYLLABUS

2008-2009

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Room 112

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Welcome to Algebra I – the gatekeeper of all future math courses! Algebra I is an exciting subject that offers great opportunities to help you become critical thinkers, problem solvers, and better communicators which are skills that are extremely valuable in the ever-changing workplace. Some topics will be difficult at first, but there are many resources available to help you succeed. It is okay to make mistakes in class because real learning and understanding often begin when we try to figure out what we did wrong. The key to learning anything is never giving up!

### COURSE OF STUDY AND TEXTBOOK

We will be using the *Algebra I* (Glencoe) [www.algebra1.com](http://www.algebra1.com) textbook and utilizing TI Navigator. This course is designed to help you discover, learn, and apply algebra concepts through practice, hands-on activities, problem solving, individual, and group activities.

### ALGEBRA I COURSE OUTLINE

Below is a projected schedule of topics and sections based on time and student comprehension.

	GRADING PERIOD 1		GRADING PERIOD 3
Section	Topic	Section	Topic
Ch. 1	<i>The Language of Algebra</i>	Ch. 7	<i>Polynomials and Nonlinear Functions</i>
Ch. 2	<i>Solving Linear Equations</i>	Ch. 8	<i>Factoring</i>
Ch. 3	<i>Functions and Patterns</i>	Ch. 9	<i>Quadratic and Exponential Functions</i>
	GRADING PERIOD 2		GRADING PERIOD 4
Ch. 4	<i>Analyzing Linear Equations</i>	Ch. 10	<i>Functions and Graphs</i>
Ch. 5	<i>Systems of Linear Equations</i>	Ch. 11	<i>Rational Expressions and Equations</i>
Ch. 6	<i>Solving Linear Inequalities</i>	Ch. 12	<i>Statistics and Probability</i>

### REQUIRED CLASS MATERIALS (to be brought to class every day)

- One 2-pocket folder - for syllabus, HW, handouts, and tests/quizzes
- Loose-leaf notebook paper
- Pencils – All assignments are to be completed in pencil. Notes may be taken in pen.
- One-subject spiral notebook – The first one will be provided.
- Textbook - Required to be covered at all times.
- Scientific Calculator – It is strongly recommended that you bring your own to class everyday, although classroom calculators (TI-30 IIS, TI-83, or 84+Silver) will be available. Classroom calculators may not leave the room without my permission. If you do not have a calculator already, the TI-30X IIS or the TI-84+Silver is recommended. Cell phone calculators are NOT permitted.
- A positive attitude.

## GRADING PROCEDURES

Your grade is based on points separated into three categories— tests/quizzes, assignments, and daily. Each category has a different weighted value.

**TESTS AND QUIZZES (50%)** – Tests and quizzes must be completed in pencil. Make-up tests and quizzes may be made up with an excused absence only. It is your responsibility to meet with me to arrange a time.

**ASSIGNMENTS (40%)** will include, but not limited to, the following:

☐ *Homework/Classwork/Practice:*

- Homework will only be accepted if completed in pencil.
- **NO WORK SHOWN = NO CREDIT.** If there are exceptions, I will let you know.
- Include your full name, period, date, page number(s), and problem numbers.
- Homework is due the next class day unless otherwise noted. While obtaining help from others is encouraged, it does not mean copying. Credit is awarded for complete and honest effort, not just correct answers.
- If answers are available, it is your responsibility to check (not copy) your answers and to try to correct any missed items. If you have any questions, write them down so you can ask about them in class.
- Since each concept builds upon the previous one, it will be difficult if not impossible to keep up with this class if you do not complete homework on time. Points will be deducted for late work unless the absence is excused. You have one day per day of excused absence to complete missed work.
- If class time is given, you are expected to work on the assignment so that you can ask for help. If you waste your time, you will have more outside work to do (homework) and you will lose daily points.
- Points will be deducted for: late work; incomplete work; answers not checked; careless/sloppy work; corrections not attempted; format/directions not followed.

☐ *Computer/Lab Activities*

☐ *Individual and Group Projects*

☐ *Writing Assignments*

☐ *Notebooks* – You will be expected to take notes. If I write it down, it must be important. Notebooks may be used on quizzes and tests.

**DAILY (10%)** – Points will be awarded for arriving on time, completing the Brain Builders, being prepared, participating in class, taking notes, making good use of class time, and following all class rules and procedures. Points may be awarded or taken away at my discretion. These are very easy points to earn, but without them, you will not do as well in this class.

- ❖ **ABSENCES:** Math is not a spectator sport so if you miss class or are not involved, you will miss instruction and opportunities that cannot be duplicated on your own. **If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed.** Write down missed assignments from the calendar on the bulletin board. Any handouts can be found in the handouts folder. Check with another student for additional information on notes, assignments, and announcements. If you are aware of a future absence, notify me prior to the absence. Excessive absences will affect your grade.

## GRADING SCALE

Although a “D” is considered passing, you should strive for a grade of “C” or higher which will reflect more proficient skills for successful completion of your next math course. Do not wait until the end of the year to review the grading policy found in the agenda. The Delaware Area Career Center grading scale is as follows (based on 100%).

A+ 100-97%	B+ 89-87%	C+ 79-77%	D+ 69-67%	F below 60%
A 96-93%	B 86-83%	C 76-73%	D 66-63%	
A- 92-90%	B- 82-80%	C- 72-70%	D- 62-60%	

You will be updated on your progress weekly, usually on Tuesday. If you request, a grade sheet will be provided. You may also access your grades through the school’s website.

## CLASS RULES

In order for you to get the best education possible, rules are necessary to insure a positive and safe learning environment. *Anything that gets in the way of someone’s opportunity to learn is against the rules.* These rules are in addition to those in the agenda.

### General Rules

1. Respect yourself, others, property, and the environment.
2. Be polite, kind, and helpful to others.
3. Expect the best from your teachers, peers, and yourself.

### Specific Rules/Procedures

1. *Be in your seat and ready to work, with all materials, when the bell rings.*
2. *Listen to and follow directions the first time they are given.* They may not be repeated.
3. *Use proper language and keep topics and body language appropriate.*
4. *No grooming (includes sprays and lotions).*
5. *No electronic devices without permission.*
6. *No sleeping in class.* Sleeping in class will result in a **zero** for the week on your daily grade. Additional violations will result in detentions and/or office referral.
7. *No food, drink, or candy permitted in the classroom.* This is a school rule that is not up for discussion. Any changes will be announced.
8. *Do not leave the classroom until you are dismissed.* The teacher ends class, not the bell.
9. *Work quietly when doing group work.* Speak so only your group members can hear you.
10. *When we are in the computer lab, use the computers for the assigned task only.* This means no internet surfing, checking email, etc. Unauthorized use of computer could lead to a zero for the activity, loss of computer use, and/or office referral.
11. **TARDY:** Your entire body is to be inside the classroom, preferably in your seat, when the bell rings. *If you come in late, do so quietly.* Place your excuse on my desk, and then take your seat. Three unexcused tardies will result in a detention. After this, the school policy will be followed.
12. **HALL PASSES:** Attend to personal needs before coming to class. Hall passes are a limited privilege and will only be approved during the last 10 minutes of class to students who have stayed on task. Reasonable requests to use the restroom pass will be honored, but will be revoked for students who leave without permission, misuse the hall pass, or don’t correctly sign out and in. Final say is mine.

### Possible Consequences

- First Violation: Warning—I will warn you once if a rule is being violated to give you the

opportunity to correct it. You will automatically lose all points for the day.

- Second Violation: You will be assigned an after school detention for 30 minutes the following Friday. You will need to provide your own transportation and to bring materials to work on. Failure to serve a detention or to arrive on time will result in an office referral.
- Third and above violations will result in a call home, detention, creation of a behavior plan, and/or a possible office referral.
- NOTE: It is my option to send you to the office at any time and to follow-up later or to modify the consequence based on the situation.

### ADDITIONAL HELP

Students—I cannot read your minds so I will count on you to let me know if you are having difficulty with the material or you have any other concerns – no matter how simple or small. Keep this in mind: If you ever feel that you might be falling behind or concepts just aren't clicking, please get help immediately. The longer you wait, the more difficult it will be to get back on track. I am usually available before and after school or by appointment.

I look forward to working with each and everyone one of you and having a successful year.



Share this syllabus with your parent/guardian. After you have read the syllabus, please sign and date below to indicate that you understand my expectations for the class. The return of this signed syllabus within five days of its receipt is an assignment. **You are required to keep this syllabus in your two-pocket folder all year.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature and Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature and Date

ABILITY is what you're capable of.  
MOTIVATION determines what you do.  
ATTITUDE determines how well you do it. –Lou Holtz