

ELMIRA HIGH SCHOOL – ALGEBRA 1

Mr. Best - Room 28

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Course Description: Students will focus on modeling and solving problems. Majority emphasis is placed on solving equations, graphing, and working with linear functions.

Goals:

- Develop competency in reading a math textbook and studying written examples.
- Improve competency and extend skills in arithmetic, fractions & decimals, and algebra.
- Explore new topics, situations, and problems to gain awareness of how mathematics applies to real-world applications.
- Communicate ideas and solutions through neat written work, verbal explanations, and organized thought.
- Maintain a high level of responsibility, honesty, and respect.

Text(s): *Glencoe Algebra 1*, McGraw Hill, 2012

Standards Addressed: The following standards are addressed in this course: a.apr.1, a.ced.1-4, a.rei.3-6, a.rei.10-12, a.sse.1-3, f.bf.1-4, f.if.1-9, f.le.1-5, n.q.1-3, n.rm.1-2, s.id.1-9, s.ic.1-6, s.cp.1-6, s.md.1-2, s.md.5,

Student Expectations:

In a math class it is extremely hard to succeed if you are not in class regularly. Being “on time” for class means you are in the classroom, with the necessary materials, and ready to go. Anything less and you can be marked tardy.

- Be respectful.
- Be 100% present...be physically here, mentally focused, and fully engaged in fulfilling the purpose of the class.
- Be responsible.
 - Turn in due assignments, get missing assignments, and schedule make-up of missed tests.
 - Success in a math class requires engagement during lessons, adequate self-study, and diligence in preparation.
- My classroom will follow all building rules, which are detailed in the EHS Student Handbook. Here are a few notable rules:
 - No food or drink other than water is permitted during class.
 - Phones, music devices, headphones, game devices, etc. will not be allowed in class. Exceptions may occur with instructor approval. for music and headphones during appropriate times and only with permission. On the occasion a music device is allowed to be used, it must stay at a volume low enough that nobody else can hear it.
 - Students will not be able to use their phones, tablets, or music devices as calculators. This will be especially enforced during tests.
 - There will be no sharing of calculators during tests.

Required Materials: These materials should be with you in class every day.

- Writing utensils (pens and pencils)
- **Planner**
- Paper
- Textbook
- **Scientific calculator**
- Binder, folder, and/or notebook for organizing returned assignments, handouts, and notes.

Extra Help: Students are encouraged to come in for extra help when needed. Availability times include before and after school, during lunch, during my prep period, and during Math Lab. These times are not guaranteed. Due to other duties there will be times when I am not available for help sessions. It is recommended that students check in with me if they plan to come in for help. Students are also encouraged to utilize the Learning Center and Homework Club.

Test Retakes: Students will have the opportunity to retake most tests and quizzes. In order to do so, the student will need to meet certain criteria. The goal is for students to improve their understanding.

- A student must have all assignments from that unit satisfactorily completed and turned in.
- The student must fully and accurately fill out a *Test Retake Contract* and have it approved by Mr. Best.
- The contract will outline the conditions the student must meet, including providing evidence that the student has worked to improve mastery of the concepts, before a retake will be issued.

Late Homework and Make-up Tests:

- Homework is due on the day after it is assigned. Late homework must be turned in no later than the following Monday to receive credit.
- Students will only have as many days as they were absent to turn in the assignment for full credit.
- If a student misses a test on the first day of an absence or string of absences, the student will be expected to make up that test on the day they return.

Evaluation / Performance Expectations: All of the following categories will combine to form the overall transcript grade. An academic grade will also be provided that does not include the homework grade.

Homework – 25%

Homework will be graded on completion, quality, and timeliness. On the day after an assignment is assigned, I will check that each student has done the work (timeliness) and we will do corrections in class with opportunity for discussion and feedback. Students will receive homework grades weekly based on what is turned in on Monday. No late homework from previous weeks will be accepted after Monday.

Planner and Notebook – 5%

Students are required to use their planner to write down and track assignments, due dates, tests, etc. Students are also required to maintain a binder or folder and/or a notebook to keep track of all notes, returned assignments, and returned tests, all in an organized fashion. Checks will be conducted in class, usually during tests.

Tests and Quizzes – 60%

There will be smaller quizzes throughout a unit based on the homework and reading that focus on a small number of concepts. There will also be end of unit and occasionally mid-unit tests that will cover everything in the unit up to that point. These will be graded on accuracy and will be designed to measure the students' knowledge and application of the concepts. See the retake policy mentioned above.

Final Exam – 10%

Taking the final exam is required to pass the class. This test will be a comprehensive assessment of all concepts covered during the semester.

Grade Scale – The standard grading scale used at the school will be used, with scores at the top and bottom 3% of each grade range earning plus and minus notations.

A 90.00 – 100% B 80.00 – 89.99 C 70.00 – 79.99 D 60.00 – 69.99 F <60%

Extra Credit: Extra credit will not generally be offered in this course.

Safety: In the case of a fire drill, we will follow the route that is posted in the classroom. Our class will exit out the door together, in a calm manner, and head right towards the **back** of the parking lot. During a fire drill, students will quickly exit in an orderly fashion and will convene as a class in one spot in the parking lot.

This syllabus is to be kept in the student's notebook.

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