

Mrs. McGowan
Honors Pre-Algebra

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Contact Information: The best way to contact me is by e-mail. I check my e-mail each day and make every effort to respond to your e-mail the day it is received.

Required Materials: You must bring the following materials to class each day:

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|---|----------------------------------|
| * Textbook | * Composition Notebook (journal) |
| * Binder (with dividers, loose leaf paper, and graph paper) | * Dry Erase Marker |
| * Pencil | * Agenda Book |
| | * AR Book |

You will be provided a calculator in class. I highly recommend you also have a calculator at home. I recommend the TI 30X IIS calculator. It can be purchased at Wal-Mart and other stores for around \$15.00. If you cannot purchase this calculator, any calculator with exponents, square roots, and a pi button is acceptable.

Common Core Standards: This year we will be teaching to the Common Core State Standards. These standards are designed to get students ready for high school math, college and their careers. These standards are more strenuous than the former Illinois State Standards. Students will be required to demonstrate an understanding of each of these standards through their homework assignments, quizzes, and journaling. For more information, go to http://www.isbe.net/common_core/pdf/guide/grade8.pdf.

Grading:

- 30% Progress (homework, classwork, journal, participation).
- 70% Product (cumulative quizzes, binder, projects)

Homework:

- **Blended Classroom:** Our Honors Pre-Algebra class will be a blend between a traditional classroom (instruction in class, homework at home) and a flipped classroom (instruction at home through videos and other materials and homework in class under my supervision). In the flipped classroom, the direct instruction or lecture portion of the class will become the homework. This will primarily be in the form of watching videos that have been produced by me and by taking notes. You could also be asked to read sections from the textbook. As you watch the videos, you will take notes on vocabulary, content, and problem examples. When you come to class the next day we will briefly discuss what you watched in the videos and answer any questions you may have. The rest of the class time will be used for practicing the concepts from the video (homework in the traditional setting), working with manipulatives, and doing activities intended to enrich the curriculum.
- **Policy:** You can expect to have homework Monday through Thursday and occasionally on weekends. Since the class is being flipped, homework will primarily be in the form of watching a video over the next day's instructional material and taking Cornell notes. Notes will be checked for completion each day and kept in your binder in a neat and organized manner. In addition, occasionally homework may be assigned from the textbook or a worksheet.
- **Classwork:** You will have classwork each day in class to practice the concepts from the video you watched the night before. Most of these assignments will be 10 or less problems and you should have time to complete them in class. However, if they are not completed in class, you must complete them at home. All classwork will be checked for completion the following day and will be worth 10 points. In order to receive full credit, you must:

- **Write your name, date and hour in the upper right corner of the paper,**
- **Use pencil,**
- **Number each problem, write the problem and show all work neatly on loose leaf lined paper,**
- **Box in the answer, and**
- **Write the answer on the worksheet**

Homework that is complete, turned in on time and follows the above rules will be stamped on the due date to indicate it was completed. No stamp = NO CREDIT!

- **Late Classwork:** Classwork that was incomplete, not turned in on time, or did not follow the rules may be turned in no later than Friday of the week it was due in order to receive half credit or 5 points.
- **Grading Classwork:** After classwork has been stamped complete, you are responsible for grading your assignment, writing your score at the top of the page, and recording your score in your binder. You must grade your classwork with a red ink pen and write the correct answer to any problem that you missed. If you are caught changing answers, you will receive a zero for the assignment and you may receive additional discipline for cheating. Papers will be turned in for me to review and returned to you the next day. **It is highly recommended that you make corrections to any of the problems that you missed to ensure that you understood the concepts being practiced.**
- **Binder:** After I return homework assignments to you, you will place them in order in your binder.

Quizzes:

- Quizzes will be approximately every other Friday. However, there may be times when these quizzes must be on a different day.
- **Quizzes will be cumulative.** This means that the quiz may include questions from any of the material you have studied from the first day of school until the date of the quiz.
- **Corrections:** Quizzes will be graded by me and returned to you on Monday. You will record your quiz grade in your binder. You will not be allowed to remove the quiz from the classroom. If you receive less than 70% on the quiz, you may make corrections for partial credit. All corrections must be completed in the classroom, on your own time, no later than Thursday after the quiz was taken. Corrections may not be made on the day the quiz is returned to you unless there are special circumstances. **All corrections must be made on a separate sheet of paper. This paper must have your name, date, hour, and the quiz # at the top of the paper. It must also have the heading "Quiz Corrections."** Late corrections or corrections that do not follow these guidelines will not be accepted.
- **Binder Checks:** Your binder will be checked at the end of each unit to ensure that your notes, homework assignments and grade sheet are organized and up to date. This will count as a quiz grade.

Absences:

- You will have 2 days for each day that you are absent to make up work that you missed while you were absent.
- Work that was due on the day you were absent is due on the day you return.
- If you missed a quiz on the day you were absent, you will take that quiz on the day that you return. You may take this quiz in the morning beginning at 7:15 a.m., 1st hour, during lunch, 10th hour, or after school until 3:30. You will receive a 0 for any quiz not taken in a timely manner.

- **All assignments, worksheets, and notes will be posted on my website daily by 3:30 p.m.** If you are absent, it is **highly recommended** that you to get the assignment from my website, complete it and turn it in on the day you return. **All videos will also be available to you.**
- **If you are unable to get assignments from my website, it is highly recommended that you contact the office on the day you are absent and request your assignments. You may pick these assignments up in the office after 2:00 p.m.**
- **Late assignments must be turned in the “late assignment” basket on the counter in my classroom.**

Extra Papers: If you lose your worksheet or notes, you may either print them from my website or get extra copies from the basket on the counter in my classroom.

Homework Pass: If you have 100% of your homework completed on time each quarter, you will receive a homework pass for the next quarter or you may choose to receive extra credit for the quarter for which you have 100% of your homework completed.

Pass: You will receive 1 bathroom/drink/hallway pass per quarter. If you do not use this pass you may turn it in at the end of the quarter for extra credit. If you must use your pass, use it wisely. You will not be allowed to leave the room except in an extreme emergency after you have used your pass. In order to use the pass, fill it out and place it in the basket on my desk. You may not use the pass during the first 10 minutes or the last 10 minutes of class.

Removal from Algebra I: Students whose grade falls below a C average may be removed from Algebra I and placed in a pre-algebra class. Additionally, taking Algebra I in the 8th grade is a privilege, not a right. This is an accelerated, high school level course and students are expected to be present and to act in a mature and responsible manner. Failure to turn in assignments, chronic absences, or disruptive behavior may result in removal of the student from Algebra I. If this occurs, the student will be placed in a pre-algebra class for the remainder of the year. Any student removed from Algebra I will be required to retake it in high school.

High School Course Recommendations: At the end of the third quarter, I will determine whether Pre-Algebra students will be recommended for Algebra I or Algebra I Honors. Typically, students with an A average each quarter in Pre-Algebra will be recommended for Algebra I Honors and all other students will take Algebra I. Additionally, students with less than a C average each quarter may be required to take a resource class in addition to Algebra I.

All students and their parents/guardians must read the above syllabus, sign the form below indicating they have done so and return it to me no later than Wednesday, August 21.

I have read and understand the above requirements for Honors Pre-Algebra.

Date: _____

Student Name

Parent/Guardian Name

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature