

Algebra I Syllabus

2017 - 2018



Waccamaw High School
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COURSE OVERVIEW

Welcome! Algebra I is primarily concerned with developing the students' algebraic thinking through visualization, analysis and problem solving. The course is consistent with the South Carolina College-and Career Ready (SCCCR) standards, which call for a shift in emphasis from a curriculum dominated by memorization of isolated facts and procedures to one that emphasizes conceptual understandings, multiple representations and connections, mathematical modeling, mathematical problem solving, and skills aligned with the profile for the South Carolina Graduate. Technology will be used regularly to reinforce the relationships among multiple representations of functions, to implement experimentation and to assist in interpreting results.

Broad concepts and widely applicable methods are emphasized. The focus of the course will require students to formulate their own definitions and discover generalizations through investigation, express mathematical ideas orally and in writing, read written presentations of mathematics with understanding, make and test conjectures, formulate counterexamples, follow and construct logical arguments towards topics and between mathematics and other disciplines. The course will involve some lecture, inquiry-based labs, engaging demonstrations, active learning approaches, incorporation of technology into the classroom, and sharing of ideas.

TEXTBOOK

Students will be provided with an online access code for a digital version of the text. A class set of textbooks will remain in the classroom, but permission may be granted to sign out a textbook as needed.

SUPPLIES

3-ring binder (1.5" - 2") *for math class only*

5 dividers for binder

Composition book *for math class only*

Ongoing supply of notebook paper (loose leaf)

Ongoing supply of pencils and erasers

Graphing calculator (*recommended*)

Headphones (*recommended*)

****Materials check will be conducted on Monday, August 28!****

APPRECIATED DONATIONS

Graph paper (loose leaf), glue sticks, paper towels, tissues, Clorox wipes, and/or hand sanitizer

ASSESSMENT/GRADING POLICY

- Tests / Major Assignments - **40%**
- Quizzes / Minor Projects - **35%**
- Classwork - **15%**
- Homework - **10%**

GRADING SCALE

- A:** 90 – 100
- B:** 80 – 89
- C:** 70 – 79
- D:** 60 – 69
- F:** 59 and below

The average of the 4 quarter grades will account for eighty percent (80%) of the final grade in the course. At the conclusion of this course, students will take the SC End of Course ("EOC") Examination which will be used to assess their competency in Algebra I. This exam is written by the South Carolina Department of Education and is subject to assess any topics covered throughout the school year. It is typically given at the end of May, and students will take

it online. Please note that this exam accounts for 20% of the student's entire grade for the course, so it is imperative that they do their best. This test covers material from the entire Algebra I curriculum, therefore it is vital that students maintain detailed notes and examples throughout the year in their binders. Activities and assessments leading to the End of Course test are intended to best prepare students for the final exam.

HOMEWORK

Homework is used as one component to measure student performance relative to academic objectives. It will be given some nights and is due at the **beginning** of class. Assignments will be graded periodically without notice to ensure that every effort is being made to grasp the material presented in the course. Homework may be graded for accuracy or for completion. Completion means that appropriate work is shown and all the problems were attempted.

Late homework will not be accepted and will earn a grade of zero (+0).

LATE WORK, AND ABSENT WORK

If a student is absent, they missed something important. IT IS THEIR RESPONSIBILITY to find out what they missed and complete their work upon their return to school. If the absence is excused by the office (illness, doctor appointment, family emergency, etc.), students will have as many days as they were absent to make up the work for full credit. For example, if they are absent one day, they will have one extra day to make up and turn in the missed work. Late credit will be given for unexcused absences or poor self-management (leaving materials at school, poor planning, or misuse of time, etc.). For each day the assignment is late, there will be a **10% deduction** from the original score. Work that is turned in too late to earn credit will not be accepted.

TESTS

Tests will be given at the end of each unit to check for mastery of objectives taught in class. My goal is for mastery in *all* objectives taught. Therefore, in certain circumstances, I will individually re-teach objectives not mastered and allow for a retest to show mastery. In these cases students may be asked to come before or after school for mandatory tutoring. Please refer to the Grading Policy above for more information on the EOC for this course.

QUIZZES

Quizzes are short assessments of key concepts or skills that should help determine your basic level of mastery. *Quizzes may be announced or unannounced.* These assessments may also be given at the end of class, in the form of an exit ticket, to determine how well you understood the day's lesson. Quizzes are intended to help you track your progress and identify areas that require additional explanation.

SECOND CHANCE POLICY

In order to improve student learning and increase mastery of state objectives, students will have the opportunity to make up points missed on a major assessment (*tests only*) by re-taking a different version of the assessment. The gradebook will reflect the average of the first and second attempt on the assessment. The highest possible score a student can receive is an 85%. The student must arrange an appointment with me and retake the test within *10 school days* from the date the original assessment is returned. Extensions will not be granted for this policy.

NOTEBOOKS

You will be expected to keep a notebook of activities/labs/demos and active learning exercises presented during the course. The notebook should be in a 3-ring binder and will include the following:

- All notes and handouts provided in class
- All written homework/in-class assignments
 - EOC preparation materials
 - Returned assessments

Notebook quizzes may be given periodically (with or without notice). Notebooks may also be collected and graded.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Mature behavior is expected by all class members. Disruptive behavior that interferes with teaching and/or learning will not be tolerated, and may result in an administrative action.

TUTORING/EXTRA HELP

Tutoring will be offered before and after school, on a rotating schedule. The tutoring schedule will vary, depending on the quarter. Tutoring schedules can be found on my classroom wall each week.

BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT

Expectations:

- Be on time/prepared for class
- Participate in class/complete all work
- Respect others' ideas, feelings, and property
- Follow all school and district policies

Note: Some infractions may require immediate administration involvement.

Consequences:

- 1st Offense: Verbal warning
- 2nd Offense: Teacher-student conference
- 3rd Offense: Teacher-parent conference
- 4th Offense: Referral to administration

CELL PHONE POLICY

Due to ever increasing capabilities of cell phones and the distractions they offer, they are not to be used in the classroom unless specifically instructed to do so. In order to lessen interruptions during instruction, students must keep cell phones silent and out of sight in a pocket or bag. In certain cases, cell phones may be collected at the beginning of class and will be housed in a secure area during the instructional period. Any phone that is not turned in when prompted or is seen or heard during instructional time will be confiscated and turned into administration.


There will be no exceptions and no second chances. Students who refuse to comply will be referred to administration. This policy also applies to iPods, tablets, electronic readers, and any other electronic or communication devices.

SUCCESS IN ALGEBRA I

Here are a few helpful suggestions on how to be successful in this course:

1. Listen and take good notes
2. Ask questions
3. Give maximum effort
4. Utilize all resources provided to you
5. Keep a positive attitude and stay focused

Profile of the South Carolina Graduate




World Class Knowledge

- Rigorous standards in language arts and math for career and college readiness
- Multiple languages, science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), arts and social sciences

World Class Skills	Life and Career Characteristics
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creativity and innovation• Critical thinking and problem solving• Collaboration and teamwork• Communication, information, media and technology• Knowing how to learn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrity• Self-direction• Global perspective• Perseverance• Work ethic• Interpersonal skills



Approved by SCASA Superintendent's Roundtable and SC Chamber of Commerce



I look forward to learning with you this year. Let's work hard while making math fun!

Emilee Fidler