

Course Description

Algebra is a generalization of arithmetic in which letters representing numbers are combined according to the rules of arithmetic. In this course you will learn to manipulate and solve both linear and quadratic equations and sketch their graphs. You will also perform various operations using polynomials and exponents. We will investigate from both a mathematical standpoint as well as applications to real-world situations. **This course is the foundation for all future math courses.**

Student Requirements and Grading:

<u>Grade Scale</u>	<u>18 Weeks Criteria</u>	<u>Semester Criteria</u>
90 – 100 A	Quizzes/Group Work 35%	18-Week 85%
80 – 89 B		
70 – 79 C	Tests/Projects 65%	Final Exam 15%
60 – 69 D		
0 – 59 F		

****Students must earn a “C-” or better to proceed to the next course****

HOMEWORK: Although homework is 0% of the students’ final grade, homework is an important component in this course. There will be daily assignments that must be completed on a regular basis. Because each math lesson builds on the previous one, failure to do daily work usually results in the student falling too far behind to be able to catch up. **This means the course must be repeated and no credit will be issued.**

***BONUS: All homework complete and on time for each chapter will add 5% to the chapter test.** Each late assignment reduces the additional percent added to the test by 1%, while each missing assignment reduces the additional percent added by 2%.

NOTES: Notes are part of mathematics and should be taken **neatly** everyday. I **highly recommend** a three ring binder to keep all your math work in.

QUIZZES: There will be a quiz after every few sections.

TESTS: There will be a test at the end of most units that will be worth 100 points. **** Retakes are allowed if the student comes in for help at some point during the unit. WAITING UNTIL AFTER THE TEST WILL NOT BE ALLOWED!! Retakes must be COMPLETED no later than one week after the initial test was given back to the students. The maximum score for a test retake is 80 (B-).**

LATE WORK: If you are absent and it is an excused absence, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed, complete and turn it in **within three school days** for full credit. Extra curricular activities such as sports, drama, clubs, field trips, etc., do not fall under excused absences. **You** are responsible for the work on days missed due to these reasons. If your absence is unexcused, your homework will count as late and quizzes, tests, and projects drop 10% each day.

HELP/QUESTIONS: I am available during 1st, 3rd, and 8th hours. I am also available before school. If you need to see me before school, please let me know in advance. I am NOT available after school as I also will be teaching at North Shore Middle School and need to travel there.

MATERIALS FOR COURSE:

Each student will be expected to bring the following to class **everyday**

1. Pencil
- 2 Three ring binder with paper or notebook and folder
3. Calculator
4. Ruler* (or protractor) *(any solid straight edge)

**Students should hold on to all work to use as a reference for quizzes, tests/projects, and final exams

A text book will be issued but should be kept at home for additional examples. Students will be told ahead of time if they need to bring their text book to class.

Cell Phone/iPod Policy

Cell Phone and iPods are not allowed to be out in my classroom unless specified by me. The first time you are caught texting, messaging, etc you will be warned. The second time it is taken away for the remainder of the school day. The third time it is taken away until a resolution is reached between your parents/guardians and myself.

Parents: DO NOT TEXT OR CALL YOUR SON/DAUGHTER DURING CLASS!! If you really need to contact them, call the office and they will call your son/daughter down.

Students: CLAIMING YOU HAVE YOUR PHONE OUT BECAUSE YOUR PARENTS TEXTED/CALLED YOU IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE EXCUSE.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT:

Respect is the key word in this classroom. Respect for other students, the teacher, and school property is essential to create a positive learning environment. General school rules apply at all times. In addition the following rules apply to this class:

- 1) Students are to be in their seats when the tone sounds and remain there until the teacher dismisses the class. **(4 tardies results in a Saturday detention.)**
- 2) Use the restroom and drinking fountain before coming to class. Students will be allowed to sign out to the bathroom **during work time**. If you make a habit of using the restroom during my class, restrictions may apply.
- 3) Students are to keep hands, feet, and objects to themselves at all times.
- 4) Students are to bring materials to class, and participate in class activities.
- 5) Students will maintain an appropriate noise level during class time.
- 6) No profanity (spoken or otherwise) or inappropriate comments are allowed.

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT: Any parent or guardian with questions about the course or their student's progress is encouraged to e-mail me at fechter@ahs.k12.wi.us. It is easier to reach me via email, but you can also call and leave a voice mail at (262) 369-3611 x 3135. I will return the call as soon as possible.

STUDENT/PARENT/GUARDIAN/TEACHER AWARENESS:

Student: My teacher has explained the course information to me. I understand it and will honor it while in the classroom.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: I/We have read the course information. I/We understand it and will support it.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Teacher: I will be fair and consistent in administering the course information as previously outlined.

Signature: Thomas Fichter Date: 9/1/11