

Algebra 1 Syllabus

Instructor

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Conferences: by appt. Mon., Fri. 10:15 - 11:00 a.m.; Wed., Thu. 9:45 - 10:45 a.m.; or after school

Course Description

Algebra 1 is a one-year course that includes simplifying and evaluating expressions, solving linear and quadratic equations, simplifying variable expressions, problem solving, and graphing on the Cartesian coordinate plane.

Textbook

Algebra 1, Prentiss Hall, publisher

Required Materials

Students will come to class prepared. The following materials will be brought to class daily:

- Algebra 1 textbook
- Math binder
- Pencils or mechanical pencils (with extra lead), eraser
- Ruler or straight edge
- 8.5" x 11" paper (graph paper, binder paper, or scratch paper with one clean side)

Grading

Report Cards are distributed four times per year. Progress reports are sent home by the school at approximately the midpoint of each quarter. Grades will be updated regularly and can be accessed online at the web site www.mrsilvermansclass.com.

Quarter Grades. Quarter grades are weighted as follows:

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| • Classwork - Warm-ups, Notes, Math Practice, Small Group Projects | 30% |
| • Assessment - Tests, Quizzes, Major Projects | 70% |
| ➤ Tests and Quizzes | 50% |
| ➤ Major Project | 10% |
| ➤ Midterm/Final (midterm Q1 & Q3, final Q2 & Q4) | 10% |

Semester Grades. Semester grades are the combination of the two quarter grades in that semester. Because much of algebra 1 is cumulative, significant changes (improvement or decline) in performance from the first to the second quarter in a semester will be taken into consideration in semester grading.

Grading Scale. The grading scale is:

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

Classwork

Classwork includes all activities, with the exception of assessment (tests, quizzes and major projects), that occur in class. Except for specified assignments which will be due before leaving class, unfinished Classwork may be completed at home and turned in the following school day. Classwork will include the following:

Warm-ups. Warm-ups are done daily in the first 10 - 15 minutes of class. Solutions to warm-up problems will be provided for learners to copy. Warm-up problems may be on quizzes. Daily warm-ups will be placed in chronological order in the warm-up section of learner's binder and will be checked for completeness from time to time and at the end of each quarter.

Notes. Daily in class learners will be presented new material, review material, and/or techniques and solutions for solving problems. Learners are expected to write their own notes, preferably using Silverman Notes (derived from Cornell Notes) format (which will be demonstrated to the class). Learner notes will reinforce concepts and techniques learned in class and will serve as an invaluable tool in studying for tests, quizzes and final exams. Daily notes will be placed in chronological order in the notes section of learner's binder and will be checked for completeness at the end of each quarter.

Math Practice. Math Practice will be assigned daily. The expectation is that learners will begin working on Math Practice in class and will complete assignments at home as necessary. Unfinished Math Practice is due and will be graded for completeness at the **beginning of class the next school day**. Math Practice is given so learners have an opportunity to practice skills and use techniques learned in class. When turned in, it will be graded for completeness, effort, and correctness. In order for learners to learn from their mistakes, it is imperative that they understand the correct way to solve missed problems.

The second half of their grade on each assignment is for attaching reworked, corrected versions of missed problems. Any problems that are not done correctly on a reworked attachment may be corrected with the help of the teacher during office hours (typically right after school at least once or twice a week).

Guidelines for Classwork (including Warm-ups, Notes and You-Trys, Math Practice, etc.):

- Learners will **show all work in order to receive credit**; answers only will receive no credit.
- Incomplete Classwork will receive partial credit
- Students are responsible for making up any missed Math Practice
- If a learner has an excused absence, then the learner has as many days as s/he has been absent to make up the missed Math Practice
- Late Math Practice receives a deduction of 1 point per school day late
- All Classwork must be done in pencil to receive credit
- Each answer will have a box drawn around it.
- Math Practice (MP) must be titled correctly at the top of the page to receive maximum points (see example below). An incorrect heading will result in the loss of one point. Preformatted Math Practice paper is available in class.

Name _____	Grader _____
Date _____ Period _____	No. Missing _____ No. Incorrect _____
Practice List:	MP# _____

Classwork will be placed in the appropriate sections of learner's binder in chronological order. Math Practice assignments will be placed by Math Practice Number (MP#).

Quizzes and Tests

Assessment is achieved through quizzes, tests and major projects. Quizzes will be given weekly and will cover the warm-ups, in-class you-trys, and assigned Math Practice from the prior week. For each chapter there will be one or two tests (a mid-chapter test covering the first half and a second half test covering either the second half or the whole chapter). Partial credit is available to those who show their work. Tests will be announced in advance. Students who miss tests or quizzes due to excused absences must make them up on the day and at the time (typically after school) determined by the facilitator. Makeup tests and quizzes will usually consist of different problems than the original test or quiz.

Binder/Notebook

Students need a math binder. The binder will contain the following contents in the order given, preferably with dividers appropriately labeled:

- Algebra 1 Planner
- Algebra 1 Syllabus
- Algebra 1 Math Content Standards
- Progress reports
- Self Evaluation and Reflection Forms
- Warm-ups
- Notes
- Math Practices and/or Learner Personal Responsibility Forms

Binders should be kept up to date at all times. Organization and completeness helps learners understand and review the material covered in class. Binders will be checked for completeness and graded once or twice every quarter. The binder grade will carry the same weight as a quiz.

Class Guidelines and Expectations

- Learners will go to the rest room and take care of other personal matters prior to class
- Learners will arrive on time; tardiness may affect ability to complete warm-up
- Learners will power down cell phones and put all electronic devices away and out of site during class
- Learners will refrain from chewing gum, eating, and drinking in class
- Learners will be in their seat, ready to learn, when the bell rings
- Learners will come to class prepared with all necessary materials
- Learners are responsible for maintaining a quiet, productive environment in which they and their classmates will be able to work to their fullest potential.
- Learners will remain in their seats until excused regardless of when the bell rings
- Learners will take responsibility to make sure their parents/guardians are aware of their academic progress at all times

