

Algebra 1

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COURSE DESCRIPTION The Common Core curriculum for Algebra 1 will focus student learning on three critical areas: (1) Seeing structure in expressions as a record of a computation with numbers, symbols that represent numbers, arithmetic operations, exponentiation, and, at more advanced levels, the operation of evaluating a function; (2) Formulating and reasoning about expressions, equations and inequalities; and (3) Performing arithmetic with and understanding relationships and identities of polynomials and rational functions.

MY PHILOSOPHY Mathematics is a critical skill that students will need to be successful in their future pursuits. Encouraging an exploratory approach to mathematics can create a healthy mathematical curiosity, and a positive learning experience despite challenging curriculum. I encourage the use of solitary, partner, and group work for a well-balanced classroom. Communication between Parent, Student and Teacher is essential for student success. I encourage you to participate by monitoring your student's progress and asking them to share their learning with you.

TEXTBOOK College Prep Mathematics, *Core Connections, Algebra*. Please bring your textbook to class every day.

Parent Support: <http://cpm.org/parent-support>

Homework Help: <http://homework.cpm.org/cpm-homework>

DAILY MATERIALS It is important that students are prepared to participate and learn. We recommend the following:

- ___ **Pencils** & hand-held sharpener and/or mechanical pencil
- ___ **3-ring binder** (toolkit, HW, tests/quizzes, graph paper, with dividers)
- ___ **Textbook**
- ___ **Graph paper** loose-leaf, 3-hole punched
- ___ **Calculator** (TI-30 Recommended, No Graphing Calculators)
- ___ **Ruler**
- ___ **Colored pen** for correcting
- ___ **Post-it notes**

GRADES

Grades will be determined using weighted categories:

Grading Scale:

Category	Assignments	Weight
Tests	INDIVIDUAL Tests & Quizzes	50%
Daily Work	Classwork, HW	40%
Teamwork	TEAM Tests	10%

A- 90-93%	A 94-99%	A+ 100%
B- 80-83%	B 84-86%	B+ 87-89%
C- 70-73%	C 74-76%	C+ 77-79%
D- 55-63%	D 64-66%	D+ 67-69%

HOMEWORK Math homework is assigned every day (with few exceptions). Unfinished classwork must be completed as homework. Each assignment is graded on a 5-point scale based on effort, completion, neatness, and accuracy. Graph paper is required for all assignments, unless a worksheet is provided. Only neat work, done in pencil, will be accepted. Sentence questions require sentence answers. Numerical answers require the support of numerical work.

TOOLKITS Toolkit entries summarize each new or important idea. Entries will include examples, explanations, and definitions. These are class notes that students may use as a study tool for tests. Toolkit entries are graded as Daily Work.

ABSENT WORK Students are allowed one day of make-up time for each day absent. Guidelines for completing and submitting absent work are posted by the front door of the classroom. Students are responsible for reading the assignment calendar and absent work guidelines. Students can visit my website for missed work and download worksheets online.

LATE WORK Homework needs to be turned in on time. Students are preparing to transition to high school and developing consistent work habits is an important component of that preparation. There will be two late passes per semester to be used at the student's discretion.

FIELD TRIPS The variety of field trip opportunities available at RVMS makes it too difficult to accommodate assignment extensions. Therefore, students going on field trips need to stop by the office and turn in to my box the work that is due the day of the fieldtrip. Students also need to come prepared the following day with that day's assignment completed. *Field trips are NOT an excuse to turn work in late.*

TEAM TESTS These tests, taken collaboratively with a group of 3 to 4 students, precede the individual tests for each unit. Taking a team test provides a focused review that allows students to discuss the important concepts in a unit. It also helps students get an idea of what they do and do not understand, as well as what will be on the individual test.

INDIVIDUAL TESTS Tests are given about a week after team test rather than at the end of a unit. This gives students time for additional practice based on the results of the team test.

EXTRA CREDIT There is no extra credit specifically to raise a low grade. There will be infrequent challenge opportunities available for students who are ready to go above and beyond the daily work.

EXTRA HELP In CPM courses, students are taught to first ask their team members for help. This process encourages students to work collaboratively and learn to articulate their ideas. It also ensures that I am able to circulate and answer focused questions. If a student is in need of additional help, I am available during SSRW Tuesday through Friday. RVMS offers HW Club Tuesday and Thursday, and MCHS peer tutors are available through our counseling office.

TO REMAIN IN COURSE A minimum of B- is required to remain in this course. If a student falls below for any grading period (oral grades/quarter grades), parents will be contacted. If the student remains below a B- for a second time, he/she will be moved to an appropriate course.

----- DO NOT DETACH -----

PLEASE KEEP THESE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS IN YOUR MATH BINDER FOR REFERENCE.

Please print and sign your names below if you have read these course guidelines and discussed them with your family.

Student Name and Signature: _____

Parent Name and Signature: _____

☐ Check this box if you and your family have explored my website: www.tracytalmage.com