

# ALGEBRA 1

## COURSE SYLLABUS

MRS. FELLO

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Algebra 1 is a crucial building block for future mathematics courses. The course builds a foundation of procedures, skills, basic terminology and symbolism that are needed to understand that algebra is just a continuation of arithmetic. In addition, the course will include lessons on probability and data analysis. When you do not understand a concept, get help immediately. I have high expectations for each and every student and will encourage them to rise above their potential throughout the school year.

### TOPICS

Unit 0- Pre-Algebra Review  
Unit 1- Solving Equations  
Unit 2- Introduction to Functions  
Unit 3- Graphing Linear Equations  
Unit 4- Writing Linear Equations  
Unit 5- Solving Inequalities  
Unit 6- Solving Systems of Linear Equations  
Unit 7- Exponent Rules  
Unit 8- Operations with Polynomials  
Unit 9- Data Analysis

### MATERIALS

- **Algebra 1 Textbook, McDougal Littell**- must remain covered for the duration of the course
- **Binder**- Students must have an ALGEBRA ONLY binder and take notes daily. NO TRAPPERS!
- **Pencils/Pens**- Ink pens may be used for student's notebooks and homework corrections only. All other items must be done in pencil.
- **Assignment Journal**- Students are required to copy their assignment in their journal on a daily basis. Also, students are required to enter their grades in the assignment journal on a WEEKLY basis. Do not rely on POWERSCHOOL to do this. I CAN make mistakes.
- **Scientific Calculator**- Calculators will be used to aid in exploring Algebra; however, will not be used as a "crutch" for applications that students cannot perform on their own.

### HOMEWORK

It is necessary to practice and review mathematics in order to learn the material. Therefore, homework will be assigned on a daily basis. Unless otherwise noted, homework will be due the next class day. You should expect to do a variety of problems each night including computation and word problems. Homework assignments give you the opportunity to test your knowledge; so therefore, the assignments will not be graded for correctness. However, I will be looking for quality assignments with all work clearly shown. Credit for homework will be given in the following manner:

2 points- all problems are done and all work is shown  
1 point- most problems are attempted and all work is shown  
0 point- no work shown or not turned in on time

*We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit.*  
-Aristotle

## GRADING

Your grade will be based on points earned from homework, graded homework, notebook checks, quizzes, tests, and projects.

- **HOMEWORK:** Homework will be randomly checked or collected for completion.
- **GRADED HOMEWORK:** Homework will be assigned and graded for correctness at various times during the year. Think of these assignments as take-home quizzes. These will then make great study resources for in-class quizzes and tests.
- **DAILY REVIEW WARM-UPS-** Daily warm-ups will be given to review concepts. These will be graded every nine weeks.
- **NOTEBOOK CHECKS:** Notebooks AND assignment journals will be checked once each nine weeks.
- **QUIZZES-** Quizzes will be given 1 or 2 times during each chapter/unit.
- **TESTS-** Tests will occur after each chapter. They will typically be 80 to 100 points.
- **PROJECTS-** Projects will be assigned throughout the year.

## COURSE EXPECTATIONS

As a member of this class, you become an important part of a learning community. Please be aware of your behavior and its effects on fellow students as well as the teacher.

### 1. Be Prepared

- a. You will need to have all materials with you and be ready to begin when the bell rings. You should begin working on the bell-ringer as soon as your materials are ready (books out, pencil sharpened, etc. ) when you enter the classroom.
- b. Failure to have the homework available at the time it is checked during class will result in a zero grade for that assignment.
- c. It is YOUR responsibility to make up work after an absence. You need to make sure that you turn in any missed work upon your return. Please check the back bulletin board for missed assignments.

**\*\*\*\*On the fourth day that a student is unprepared, late or needs to go to their locker for any reason, that student will be assigned a lunch detention.\*\*\*\***

### 2. Be Respectful

- a. **NO TALKING** without permission from the teacher or during appropriate group work times. If you wish to contribute to class, please raise your hand and wait to be acknowledged. Talking out of turn is disrespectful to me and your fellow classmates.
- b. Treat people as you wish to be treated.

### 3. Be Honest

- a. Unless notified by the teacher, you are required to do all of your own work on any homework, project, test, quiz or other assignment.
- b. Cheating, copying answers, or supplying answers to assignments or tests will not be tolerated and is considered academic dishonesty.

### 4. Do Your Best

- a. Always stay on task and take thorough notes. This is not a time to socialize.
- b. Begin all group work and in-class assignments immediately.
- c. I expect you to do your best at all times. Effort and attitude go a long way towards success.

## CONSEQUENCES

1. Warning
2. Reduction of responsibility/participation grade & student conference
3. Notification of parents
4. Discipline Referral

I hope that you enjoy this course as much as I enjoy teaching it. If you are having any problems, questions, or just want to talk, I encourage you to contact me in person. I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!!!! Don't let a small problem grow to a crisis. It's always easier to fix anticipated difficulties than to untangle a mess. Please take advantage of AM tutoring!!! This time can be used to ask questions, work on homework, and get extra practice.

Check out my webpage for homework and other resources to help you. Go to the Freeport Middle School page, then click on teachers and select me. I try to maintain this as best as I can. If there is something you need to know about homework and it is not updated on my website, please email me. I check email several times throughout the day.

**KEYSTONE EXAM**

In May, all students enrolled in Algebra 1 will be required to take the Keystone Algebra 1 Exam. Like the PSSA, this exam is a standardized test. It IS a GRADUATION REQUIREMENT for all students. This final exam requires the student to do a lot of reading and math. It tests students on their ability to apply Algebra concepts. If students give their best effort throughout the year, I feel very confident that they will pass this exam. I will discuss this further at Open House and Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Again, I look forward to working with you!

Mrs. Fello

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Please complete the form below, cut this portion off and return it to Mrs. Fello by Monday, August 28.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand and will comply with the expectations in the Algebra 1 syllabus.  
(Print FIRST AND LAST name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Student)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have discussed the terms of the Algebra 1 syllabus with my student.  
(Parent/Guardian Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Parent/Guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

**FOR PARENT / GUARDIAN**

I would/ would not like to be included on the e-mail list to receive periodic updates for Algebra 1.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian email address)