

Welcome to Algebra 2



<http://www.tanyakhovanova.com/Jokes/pictures.html>

Algebra II 2015-16 Course Syllabus and Outline

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

September 8, 2015

Hello and welcome back from summer vacation! [REDACTED] is truly excited to begin my seventh year teaching at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] will be joining us from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and we are confident that Algebra 2 will be a fun and challenging learning experience for all of us. The Algebra 2 curriculum at [REDACTED] is organized around several major themes, including explorations of various types of functions, matrices and systems of equations, an introduction to probability and statistics, and applications of major course concepts to real world problems. The goals for this course are to re-enforce your ability to think logically and critically, to use math to understand your world, solve problems, and expand your creativity, and to provide a solid foundation for future mathematics courses. You will have many opportunities to engage in hands-on learning, to collaborate with your peers, as well as to learn individually and at your own pace, with my full support along the way.

Expectations of Students in Algebra: For this course, we have no doubt that each of you can meet the following expectations:

1. The major rule in this class involves respect. I expect you to respect yourself, your classmates, me as the teacher, and our class learning environment.
2. Be on time, prepared, and engaged in the class discussion/activity.
3. Listen carefully and follow directions.
4. Ask questions and challenge yourself. Always give your best effort!

Grading: Each student's grade is meant to reflect the overall learning process, which occurs incrementally and over time. As such, all work that you do in this class will factor toward your final grade according to the calculations on the next page:

Standards: 50%: The course is broken down into specific ideas (standards). All assessments that we do will relate back to these standards. Your grades for these standards can change as your understandings develop. You may initiate a reassessment of a standard (one student-initiated reassessment per student per day, the same standard can only be re-assessed once per week), and we will initiate compulsory reassessments. The goal is to have your grade reflect what you actually know, not what you were once confused about in the past.

Class Work and Participation: 20%: This includes, but is not limited to, warm-up activities, exercises, in-class problem sets, and following all rules and procedures, including exceptional attendance (not being late for class).

Homework: 10%: Homework will be assigned almost daily. We consider it practice to aide in your understandings and help you succeed on your assessments. Very few students perform well on assessments and benchmarks without at least some practice.

Benchmark Projects: 20%: Each quarter, there will be one benchmark project that focuses on major course topics or theme. Once and a while a mini-project may also be assigned.

Late Work: Late work will be accepted according to the following guidelines:

- If you miss class for an excused absence (i.e. sickness or doctor's appointment) you may submit late assignments for full credit **the day** you return to class.
- Larger assignments/classwork: Students can turn in work for up to 1 week from the day it was assigned for 80% credit.
- Homework: Each homework is worth 3 points. If homework is not completed at the beginning of class, it is considered late. Students can submit homework 1 day late for 2 points, or 2 days late for 1 point.
- No credit will be given for incomplete work.
- **Missing assignments will be marked as a zero until they are submitted. If you are missing work, it is your responsibility to talk to us and submit the assignments in a timely fashion.**

Standards Retakes: Students can retake standards at any time during the quarter.

Retakes can occur in many fashions:

- **In Class:** Previously assessed standards will be brought back on quizzes throughout the quarter. There will also be in-class time dedicated to standards retakes (this can occur during the first 10 minutes of class as a warm-up, or for the whole class).
- **Outside of class:** Students can initiate reassessment of up to 2 standards outside of class on any given Wednesday at 12:50pm.

Online Grade Book: Students will have access to their own grades throughout the quarter. We will post a link to your grade book on CANVAS, and you can log-in and check your overall grade periodically. **Since you will have access to your grades at any time, it is your responsibility to check for missing assignments and submit them in a timely fashion.**

Math Lab/Office Hours: There are multiple opportunities for students to receive extra help and support outside of class. Math Lab will be open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Specifically, [REDACTED] will be available in Math Lab during X band on Fridays and [REDACTED] will be available in Math Lab during X band on Tuesdays. If additional times for tutoring are necessary, we are also available by appointment.

Attendance: You are expected to have excellent attendance this year. Because each lesson will build on previous lessons, attendance is a crucial aspect of this course.

- **Returning from an Absence:** If you must miss class, you are responsible for any missed work. All assignments and major handouts will be posted on Canvas.
- **Cutting class:** Cutting class for any reason is not only a huge sign of disrespect towards me and the class as a whole, but also a major detriment to the learning process. As such, any unexcused absence from class will result in a zero earned on whatever was missed in class (class work, participation, quiz, etc).
- **Benchmarks:** If you cut another teacher's class to work on my benchmark the day that it is due, your grade for your benchmark will drop by **one full letter grade (10 full points)**.

Technology: We will regularly use our laptops in class during projects, investigations, and lessons. The only expectation is that students use technology respectfully. This means:

- Laptops should only be taken out when we are using them for class.
- When we are using laptops for a lesson, they should only be used for specific instructional purposes (i.e. not for chatting, video games, etc).
- Cell phones should be on vibrate, and should only be used in case of an emergency.

Important Notes

- We will have a warm-up problem at the beginning of each class. If you are late to class/are not ready with the proper supplies/do not complete the warm-up, you will not earn the classwork points for that day.
- If you miss class, please check your folder for important handouts. Also, be sure to check in with me to get any important notes.
- **Food/Drink:** You can have food and drinks in class **as long as no trash is left in the room at the end of class**. If food/drink related trash is left in the room, the class will lose food privileges.
- If you have any questions on course content, please let me know. We can meet for extra instruction by appointment.

Contact Information: Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Also, be sure to check CANVAS and your [REDACTED] gmail daily, as important reminders, documents, and information will be posted there regularly.

- ***Email is the best way to contact us!

I am extremely excited about this coming school year, and I look forward to working with you! Here is to a fantastic 2015-16 school year!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]