

Blue Mountain Academy 2014-2015

Algebra I

Instructor: John Musselman

Room: 108

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Course Description: Algebra I provides the first major stepping stone from the concrete world of arithmetic to the somewhat more abstract ideas essential to geometry, algebra, and more advanced mathematics subjects. You will be introduced to topics such as variables, equations, polynomials, functions, and graphing. Perhaps most importantly, you will practice logic and critical thinking skills, which are important tools in every area of life - not just math!

Materials: I strongly recommend the use of pencils in any math class due to the almost inevitably high amount of erasing that we will do. If you must use pen, I will allow it unless it impairs the neatness of your work (just make sure I can always read it!). You will need a notebook of lined paper (or a section of a multi-sectioned notebook) for taking notes. A calculator is not required for Algebra I and for some things we do calculators will not be allowed. I would also ask you come into my classroom with an open mind and a willingness to learn.

Assignments and Grades: Each semester grade is made up of the two quarter grades (45% each) and the semester/final exam grade (10%). The quarter grades are calculated based on four weighted categories. Participation makes up 15% of each quarter grade. Participation points will be given for warm-up activities at the beginning of class and from periodic checks of your notes. Homework makes up 35% of each quarter grade. Homework will be given for most class periods to practice in the topics we have learned. Many of the homework points will also come from assignments done in class. Quizzes make up another 15% of each quarter grade and will be given on a regular basis throughout each chapter (approximately every 3 or 4 lessons). Tests make up the final 35% of the quarter grades and will be given at the conclusion of each chapter to assess how well you have learned the material.

Classroom Policies: You are expected to be knowledgeable of the guidelines laid out in the school handbook and are expected to follow these at all times in this classroom. Attendance, discipline, and academic dishonesty will all be addressed as outlined in the school handbook. Late work **MUST** be turned in the next day to receive any credit – any later will result in a zero. Work missed due to excused absences can be made up for full credit – other late work will receive a penalty. In the case of an extended excused absence, you will have as many school days as you missed to make up the work you missed (e.g. if you miss 4 school days due to illness you will have 4 school days to turn in all work once you return to class). Missed quizzes and tests will be addressed on an individual basis. I will always do my best to ensure that your grades are up-to-date and accurate. Some extenuating circumstances may arise at some point this school year, but in lieu of those you should expect updated grades on a weekly basis (at the very least).

Expectations: I have very high expectations for each and every student in each of my classes. I want you all to succeed and I understand that it is my job to do everything I can to help you achieve that success. Algebra I is absolutely fundamental to any further learnings in mathematics and I look forward to tackling this important subject with you!