

Westminster School at Oak Mountain
Pre Algebra A: 2017-2018

Mrs. Martin

Room 103

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Course Description:

Pre-Algebra provides a transition from studying arithmetic to studying algebra. Topics include rational numbers, equations, proportions, and linear functions.

General Schedule:

First quarter: Chapters 1-3

Second quarter: Chapters 3-5

Third Quarter: Chapters 6-8

Fourth Quarter: Chapters 8-9

Students will be given a more specific monthly calendar at the beginning of each month. We will complete one chapter every three to four weeks on average, depending on the needs of the class. All calendars are subject to change at the discretion of the teacher.

Assignments and Assessments:

Homework: There will be homework given between most class periods. It will be due at the beginning of the class after which it is assigned. It will be checked and graded according to the following standards:

- 10/10 All problems have been attempted, with all steps shown for each problem. Most of the problems are correct.
- 5/10 Most problems have been attempted, with some steps shown for each class. Some of the problems are correct.
- 0/10 Few or no problems have been attempted, with little to no work shown.

Homework will be corrected at the beginning of each class period. No late homework will be accepted apart from absences.

Classwork and Group work Often we will do activities in class either individually or as a group. Students will be graded individually for each activity based on participation, engagement, and effort. Each activity will be worth the same amount of points as a homework assignment (10 points).

Quizzes: We will have regular quizzes as we go through each chapter. These quizzes are meant to hold students accountable to keeping up with the material and to identify students' misconceptions before the test. Quiz dates will be listed on the calendar students receive.

Tests: We will have roughly 2-3 tests per quarter. Generally, we will have one day of review before each test, and extra review materials will be available to students upon request. Test dates will be listed on the calendar students receive.

Project: Each student will complete a project, taken from the textbook (exceptions only made with my approval). This project will involve a written report, a verbal presentation, a well-explained math problem, a student-produced practice worksheet, and a teaching visualization. The total point value will be 160 points, and all students will have this grade entered in the fourth quarter. Parts of the project will not be accepted late.

Exams: There will be a Midterm in December which will be cumulative for the semester and a Course Final in May which will be cumulative for the year.

Grading:

- Tests and Projects: 60%
- Quizzes: 20%
- Homework, Classwork, and Group work: 20%

Classroom Expectations:

- Be Respectful
 - Respect Your Peers: Be kind to classmates and treat them with dignity. Always work and converse with a positive attitude and do not distract your peers. I do not allow discussion of grades between peers in my classroom, as it is a form of disrespect.
 - Respect Me: Always listen and follow instructions. Actively participate in all classroom activities. During instruction, do not speak unless called upon. If I have allowed the class to talk while working on an assignment, conversations should be limited to talking about the assignment and should be held at a reasonable noise level so that I can speak with other students. If you have a question, raise your hand and I will indicate an appropriate time for you to ask your question. If your question is about a grade, ask me privately after class.
 - Respect Yourself: Set yourself up for success in class by being on time, prepared, and ready to work. Do not speak negatively or in a degrading way about yourself or your performance in the class.

Classwork & Homework Expectations and Partial Credit:

- Make all work easily legible. If I can't read something, I can't count it as correct.
- Be neat with your steps in working problems. Steps in equations should be done vertically down the page rather than horizontally on the page (there will be further explanation in class).
- Partial credit may be awarded on tests and quizzes, but will not be awarded without neat, legible work for that problem.

Textbooks:

Students will be issued their textbooks at the beginning of the year, and will be responsible for returning them in the condition in which they were issued.

Electronic Devices:

All cell phones brought to school should be left with Mrs. Messer at the front desk at the beginning of the school day, as per school policy. They will be available for pick up after the school day ends at 2:40. All other electronic devices must be turned off. If there is an occasion where a student will be allowed to use a tablet or laptop in class, I will give advance notice.

Unauthorized possession and/or use of any device will result in a disciplinary referral and the device will be taken and given to Mrs. Messer.

Notebooks and Supplies:

An agenda, 3-ring binder, 5 dividers, graph paper, lined paper, pencils, and colored pens or pencils (for note-taking) will be required. I will go over binder organization in class the first week of school. If it becomes obvious that binders are not being kept organized, then notebook quizzes will be given to hold students accountable to staying organized.

Calculators on Tests and Quizzes:

You are expected to have a calculator for approved tests and quizzes. If you do not bring one, that is your choice, but one will not be provided to you except for demonstrable last-minute emergencies.

Absences:

You are responsible for getting the notes and making up any work. The policy in the student handbook will be followed for due dates and grading. If the test, quiz, project, or homework was assigned prior to the absence, the student is responsible for that assignment upon returning to school. If a student misses a review day and new material is NOT covered then expect to take the quiz or test, unless there have been previous arrangements made with myself.

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty:

We do not tolerate plagiarism (taking someone else's work as your own) or cheating of any sort. Either will result in an automatic zero for the assignment. Further consequences may be deemed appropriate by the administration.

Extra Help:

If you need extra help, schedule a time to meet with me. If you want to see me for help during tutorial, you must still schedule it beforehand. I may also be able to suggest additional resources when appropriate.

Study Skills:

In an effort to equip students with the skills they need to be successful, we will complete a learning styles inventory as part of this course. We will use the results of the inventory to discern which study methods and note-taking methods are most useful for each student, and I will periodically spend class-time working with students on these skills.

Consequences for Not Meeting Class Expectations:

Failure to meet class expectations will be met with discipline. The following are possible consequences according to the Westminster Student Handbook.

- Verbal Warning
- Referral/ Detention: For minor infractions, students will receive a referral note, if a student receives 3 referrals within a 60-day period, a detention will be issued.
- Parent Contact: If the offense is of a more serious nature, or if a student receives 3 or more referrals, a student will be assigned detention as well as have their parents contacted.
- Office referred—If the offense is of an extreme nature or there is consistent behavior accruing minor infractions, students will be referred to the Dean of Students or Upper School Head, who will then decide the appropriate disciplinary action.
- Tardies: Students will receive a referral for being tardy. If a student is tardy 3 times, they will receive a detention.

I have read, with my parent/student, and understand all the material covered in the course information sheet for Pre-Algebra. Furthermore, I agree to do everything in my power to make Pre-Algebra a successful experience.

Student Name

Student Signature Date

Parent Signature Date

Parent Email address (please print clearly) Daytime Phone Number

Best Contact Method, Email or Phone? _____

Additional Comments
