

# 8th Grade Algebra & Pre-Algebra Syllabus

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## Classroom Expectations

1. *Be Prepared For Class* - Always come to class with your textbook, notebook, paper, pencil and planner with you. Be in your seat and ready for instruction before the bell rings. Desktops should be clear of anything that is not directly related to this class. Assignments and books from other classes, coats, sweatshirts, etc. must be kept under your desk at all times.
2. *Behave Respectfully* - Always behave appropriately in class. Listen to instruction. Do not interrupt me or a classmate. Do not take another's property unless given permission and when given permission, treat that property as if it were your own. Use appropriate language remembering the old saying, "If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all."
3. *Follow School Rules in Planner* - It is your responsibility to know and understand the rules stated in the school handbook.

Failure to follow these rules will result in a warning, detention, or phone call to your parents.

## GRADING

Each quarter grade is determined by a total number of points earned out of a total number of points possible. Assignments will be in the form of homework, quiz, test, or notebook. Each assignment will be worth a specific number of points. Typically homework and quiz assignments will be worth approximately 10 to 15 points. Tests are worth approximately 100 points and Notebooks are worth approximately 20 to 30 points. In a typical quarter, homework assignments and tests will each be approximately 45% of your final quarter grade, where the notebook will be the other 10%.

**Homework/Quizzes (45%)** - Homework will be assigned almost every night. For you to be successful, it is important to do all of the assignments. Typically, each day at the beginning of class, we will go over the homework from the previous night. Sometimes I will collect the homework and assign a grade to it. Other times we will grade it in class. Homework assignments are usually worth 10 to 15 points (depending on the assignment). You will not know ahead of time which assignments I will collect or grade in class. If an assignment is not collected, do not throw it away. It will still be a part of your notebook grade. Late assignments can be submitted the following day for 50% credit (see handbook). Assignments cannot be

submitted in parts. Once an assignment is turned in, you will not be allowed to turn in other problems or sections for half credit.

**Test (45%)** - Tests are given at the end of each chapter. Long chapters may be broken into two smaller tests. Chapter tests are not easy. Students who wish to perform well on tests will need to spend more time studying. Students who miss reviews prior to the tests are still expected to take the tests on the scheduled testing date. Students will be required to make up tests during study hall, before school, or after school. Makeup tests will not be given during class time except in special circumstances. Students who talk, or communicate with other students in any way, before they have completed their test will receive a zero

**Notebook/Organization (10%)** - This class requires daily notes. All notes taken are to be placed into a notebook (folder or binder). If you miss a day of class, it is your responsibility to get the day's notes from a classmate and add them into your notes. In addition to all notes being included in your notebook, you will include all assignments. Do not throw homework away! The notebook is usually worth about 20 points and will be turned in the day of a chapter test. Once notes have been submitted, you may not add additional notes for partial credit at another time. At the end of each quarter, points may be deducted if you fail to bring appropriate materials to class. This includes textbook, notebook, paper, pencil, etc.

**Bonus (3%)** - I do not offer bonus assignments. However, all students have the opportunity to raise their grade at the end of each quarter. It is important to do all assignments in my class, because new concepts learned are usually built upon previously learned concepts. In order to qualify for up to 3% added to your final quarter average, you must have no zeros for assignments and attend class. For every zero or unexcused absence during the quarter, one of the 3% bonus points will be lost. For example, if your final quarter average is a 90% (B), but you have no zeros on assignments and no unexcused absences, your final grade with bonus would be a 93% (A-). Students with more than 3 zeros during the quarter will not receive any bonus. You may turn up to 3 missing assignments (zeros) without credit during the last week of the quarter to receive bonus.

## Classroom Objective

It is part of my job to challenge you in my classroom. My classes are NOT designed to be easy. You must work hard in my class to succeed. Some assignments will be difficult. Though my class may be difficult, I make every effort to be a fair teacher. If you feel the rules set forth in this syllabus have been unfairly applied to you, I will be more than happy to discuss your concerns.

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*Student Signature*

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*Parent Signature*