



Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School

Algebra – A1

Mr. Brennan

Welcome to Algebra A-Block!

Contact Information

Teacher Contact:

Mr. Brennan

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MISSION STATEMENT & EXPECTATIONS FOR LEARNING

The Hamilton-Wenham Regional School community strives to create a passion for learning in a reflective environment that promotes respect, individuality and quality achievement. By working to reach their greatest potential, Hamilton-Wenham students will learn to live as life-long learners, express themselves effectively, acquire essential knowledge and skills, respect themselves and others and navigate within a variety of communities.

Course Description

The course begins with the operations over the real numbers and variable expressions including polynomials and algebraic fractions. The course continues with the solving of equations and inequalities in one or two variables, factoring, radical expressions and quadratic equations. Numerous applications to real life problem solving are integrated throughout the course.

Quarter 1: Coverage correlates to textbook chapters 1-3

Quarter 2: Coverage correlates to textbook chapters 4-6

Quarter 3: Coverage correlates to textbook chapters 7-9

Quarter 4: Coverage correlates to textbook chapters 10-12

Textbook and Resources

Textbook: Title: Algebra I (2004 Edition)
Authors: Larson, Boswell, Kanold, Stiff
Publisher: McDougal Little

Class Web Site: A class-based web site provided through Edline is integrated with the teacher-created class web site at www.MyFamilyZoo.com (follow the links to your block.) These web sites are cross-connected providing access to all online class resources.

Expectations

Students are expected to put forth their best efforts and are responsible for creating and maintaining an environment where all students can succeed, following the published policies in the Student Handbook and the posted classroom rules. Specific classroom procedures and both teacher and student expectations will be posted on the class web site.

Materials

Students should bring to class each day a three-ring binder (and paper), writing utensils, and it is **strongly** recommended that each student purchase a *TI-84 Silver Edition Graphing Calculator*. Students may find it beneficial to have a compass, protractor, ruler, graph paper and colored pencils/markers on hand for completing homework assignments and projects throughout the school year or to complement the classroom supplies.

Grading Policy

The grading for each quarter will represent the students' achievements, efforts, and contributions measured by classroom productivity, homework, projects, quizzes and tests. Approximately 50% of the quarter grade is based on assessments (quizzes, tests, and projects) and 50% is based on homework, class work, and class participation. The grade for each quarter will account for 40% of the semester grade and the semester exam will account for 20% of each semester grade.

Homework: 20% of overall grade

Consistent with the "Homework Policy" stated in the *Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School Student and Parent Handbook 2011-2012*, homework will be assigned **DAILY** (with very few exceptions). Homework may include selected problems from the textbook, completing Internet-based investigations or problems, readings for preparing for upcoming classes/activities, projects, or preparation for quizzes or tests. Homework must be completed on time. See the class web site for further information.

Warm-up: 10% of overall grade

Students are expected to begin a warm-up activity as soon as the bell rings signaling the start of class. Warm-up activities are graded separately from other class work.

Class work: 20% of overall grade

All students are expected to be actively engaged in mathematics class each day. Class work will include graded assignments and work products, reflecting both individual and group work. Part of the new Common Core Standards for Mathematical Practice is "Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others" which necessitates that students be willing to share their answers as well as their process for deriving them.

Quizzes: 20% of overall grade

Most quizzes will be announced and most quizzes will be comprised of problems that are similar to problems with which students are familiar, or will exercise problem solving techniques that students have developed. Students are responsible for knowing how to solve problems reviewed from homework and for asking questions when they do not fully understand a problem or topic. Quizzes are used to assess students understanding at a given point in time and are used to inform both the teacher and students about topics that may require additional work. A quiz may be retaken until proficiency is demonstrated. A higher grade on a retaken quiz will **replace** the previous attempt (the quiz grades are not averaged). See the class web site for further information.

Projects: 10% of overall grade

Projects will be assigned to help students further their understanding of mathematical topics; Projects may be defined utilizing a combination of class work and homework efforts.

Tests: 20% of overall grade

Tests generally cover one chapter from the textbook. The textbook provides suitable resources for reviewing material, providing practice problems, and practice tests. Teacher-created resources are also available for each chapter. Students requiring extra help for preparing for a test should make arrangements for extra help prior to the test date. Tests may not be retaken to improve test grades.

Feedback

Questions, comments and feedback are always welcome, from students or parents/guardians. For any concerns about student progress or course material please contact the classroom teacher first, and the department curriculum leader as needed to address any issues.

Once again, welcome to Algebra A-Block. I am looking forward to working with you to make this a great year!

Sincerely,

- Mr. Brennan

Please sign both copies provided, return one copy by September 7, and retain one copy for your records.

- I have read the “Homework Policy” stated in the *Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School Student and Parent Handbook 2011-2012***
- I have read the STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS stated in the *Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School Student and Parent Handbook 2011-2012*.**
- I have read and understand the class expectations and will do my best to abide by them:**

Student signature

Date

Parent / guardian signature

Date