**213: Algebra I Concepts**

**Course Description**

This course develops the real number system and its properties from the natural numbers through the set of real numbers, and also includes basic operations on algebraic functions, statistics, operations with polynomials, factoring, ratio and proportion, and some geometric relationships. There is also an emphasis on the sequencing of the mathematical steps in a solution. The emphasis will be on problem solving techniques while enhancing basic mathematical skills and algebra skills. Various types of reasoning methods will be discussed.

**Grading Policy**

**A minimum of four major grades will be given each term.**

These grades may be comprised of tests, quizzes, homework, portfolio pieces and/or binder checks.

* **Tests:**

Tests will represent 60% of the term grade. Portfolio assignments will be averaged together and will count for one test grade.

* **Quizzes:**

Quizzes will be 20% of the term grade. Quizzes will be announced one to two days ahead of time.

* **Binder:**

I expect all of my students to keep a binder including all notes, sample problems, worksheets, and homework. Binders will be checked randomly throughout the semester and the **average** of the binder checks will count as a quiz grade.

* **Homework and Class Participation:**

Homework and class participation will represent 20% of the term grade. Homework will usually be given on a daily basis and will be checked and/or collected and recorded. Students are to ***show work*** at all times. It should be evident that every problem was attempted. Class participation is an important part of the learning process. Active participation is required, including bringing the necessary textbook, binder, and pencil to class. Classwork may be collected and graded at any time. Homework and classwork will be scored according to the included rubric.

**Grading**

**Term Grades**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| HW/CW | Quizzes | Tests |
| 20% | 20% | 60% |

**Final Grade**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Term 1 | Term 2 | Term 3 | Term 4 | Midyear Exam | Final Exam |
| 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 10% | 10% |

**Classroom Expectations**

All students are expected to be respectful of their teacher, their peers, and themselves. Students are expected to follow all school rules as stated in the Student Handbook.

* **Attendance:**

Consistent attendance is necessary for your success in this course. No make-up work, including quizzes and tests, will be given to a student who misses time from class for an unexcused reason. Work for legitimate absences should be made up in the time frame listed in the Student Handbook. **If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get any notes or work you have missed and make arrangements to make up any missed assessments. If you are absent for an assessment (test, quiz, or portfolio) you will have 10 days to make it up after school.** Excessive unexcused absences will be dealt with in accordance to the district attendance policy.

* **Prompt:**

Students are expected to be in their seats and ready when the bell rings. Being tardy to class without a pass is unacceptable and will be dealt with according to the Student Handbook. Being “ready” for class includes having the following:

* a *pencil*
* your binder
* calculator (A scientific calculator will be useful for classwork, homework, and exams. However, a student can borrow a calculator for all classroom activities if necessary.)
* leave electronics in your locker
* **Assessments:**

During assessments, **there is to be silence**. Talking or using a cell phone during an assessment leads to the assumption of cheating and will be dealt with accordingly, which may result in a zero for the assessment.

* **Cheating:**

If you are caught cheating, you and any other students involved will receive a   
“zero” for that assignment, parents/guardians will be contacted, and the incident will be reported to administration.

* **Electronics:**

Electronics are not to be used or seen during class. This includes cell phones, iPods, headphones, etc. Please leave all electronics in your locker and out of sight. Electronics will be dealt with according to the student handbook policy.

* **Extra Help:**

I am available after school for extra help and make-up work on most days, except on Tuesdays. Remember – academics come first and I am happy to provide a pass for students arriving tardy to practice/rehearsals due to after school extra help.

* **Miscellaneous:**
* Hats should be removed prior to entering class.
* Coffee, food, and drink (aside from water) are not permitted in the classroom.
* The dress code should be upheld.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION**

Your participation during class in important for your learning and the learning of those around you. Periodically, you will be given a classwork grade for a certain assignment or a day’s worth of work overall. Classwork grades will be graded using the following rubric.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **What needs to be done…** | **% Equivalent** |
| 5 | * Makes a sustained positive contribution to class * Uses time wisely and effectively * Has all supplies * Completes all notes given during lecture time * Makes satisfactory progress on class assignments * Listens during large and small group discussions * Contributes to large and small group discussions with questions and/or insightful comments * Demonstrates a positive attitude * Helps peers in the class | 100 |
| 4 | * Makes a positive contribution to class * Uses time but not always efficiently * Has supplies * Completes all notes given during lecture time * Makes satisfactory progress on class assignments * Listens during large and small group discussions * Contributes to large or small group discussions, but not both | 80 |
| 3 | * Contributes to the group * Has some supplies * Completes more than half of the notes given during lecture time * Misuses some time * Listens during large or small group discussions, but not both * Contributes to large or small group discussions, but not both | 60 |
| 2 | * Makes minimal contribution to the class * Has supplies missing * Completes less than half the notes given during lecture time * May have copied work from others during class time * Demonstrates poor/ineffective small group work * Demonstrates poor/ineffective listening skills | 40 |
| 1 | * Makes little or no contribution to the class * Has supplies missing * Completes close to none of the notes given during lecture time * Wastes time * Demonstrates poor/ineffective listening skills * Makes contributions to discussions which are irrelevant or inappropriate | 20 |
| 0 | * Refuses to work * Doesn’t take any notes given during lecture time * Refuses to participate in large or small group * Conduction actions which are **disruptive** to others * **Unexcused** absence | 0 |

**HOMEWORK**

Each assignment should contain **your name, the due date, and assignment details** (page number, problem numbers, etc.). Each original problem should also be copied down before you start work on it.

When given homework, every problem needs to at least be **attempted.** That means, trying something or identifying why you didn’t understand the problem. If you leave any problems blank, you will not receive full credit on your homework. Homework is graded based on the following rubric.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **What needs to be done…** | **% Equivalent** |
| 5 | * All items are attempted. * Shows complete understanding of the questions, ideas, and processes by including calculations, examples, explanations, diagrams, graphs, etc. when applicable. * ***Work shows strong evidence of thought and effort*** * Work is organized and legible. | 100 |
| 4 | * Most items are attempted. * Shows substantial understanding of the questions, ideas, and processes by including some calculations, examples, explanations, diagrams, or graphs when applicable. * ***Most work shows thought and effort*** * Work is legible and somewhat organized. | 80 |
| 3 | * At least ½ of the items are attempted. * Shows some understanding of the questions, ideas, or processes but lacks calculations, examples, explanations, diagrams, and graphs. * ***Work shows some thought and effort*** * Work is illegible in places. | 60 |
| 2 | * At least half of the problems are done or at least attempted. * Work is shown for only half of problems. * Work is messy or unorganized in some places. | 40 |
| 1 | * Less than ½ of the items are attempted. * Shows little understanding of the questions, ideas, and processes, and lacks calculations, examples, explanations, diagrams, and graphs. * ***Work lacks thought and effort*** * Work is not legible. | 20 |
| 0 | * No items are attempted OR * Assignment not brought to class | 0 |

**BINDERS**

A key to success is being organized. Everything I give you is important, and may show up on your final exam, which is why you need to keep track of every document.

All students should follow the same binder format. Each document must be in chorological order and contain a title and page number. A table of contents should be kept with all document titles, dates, and page numbers. Binders will be graded according to the following rubric.

Policy Agreement

Please sign and return THIS SHEET ONLY to Mrs. Almquist-Ganis by **Friday, September 9th, 2016**

**STUDENT:** I have read the information contained in Mrs. Almquist-Ganis’s course information packet. I will do my part to help maintain a good classroom environment and will follow all school and classroom policies. I understand my grade is earned and based on homework, classwork, tests, quizzes, portfolios, and keeping an organized binder. If I am absent, I will take the necessary measures to make up missed work or assessments. If I have any questions or concerns, I know I can speak with Mrs. Almquist-Ganis at any time.

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Print Student Name Student Signature Date

**PARENT/GUARDIAN:** I have read the information contained in Mrs. Almquist-Ganis’s course information packet. I understand that my child/student is responsible for his/her actions. I will encourage my child/student to follow all policies. I also know that if I have questions at any time during the year, I can speak with Mrs. Almquist-Ganis in person, over the phone, or via email.

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Print Parent/Guardian Name Parent/Guardian Signature Date

**OPTIONAL INFORMATION**

Phone number (during school hours):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Do you have any questions or information you would like to share with me?*