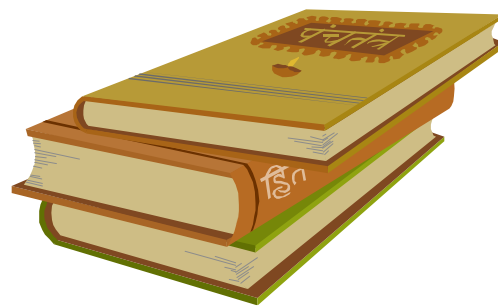


# Algebra I Course Policies 2011-2012



[www.phsmath.org](http://www.phsmath.org)

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## 1] Algebra I - The Course:

Algebra I is a course that will further your knowledge in mathematics and enable you to better prepare for college and the future. Algebra I is the foundational course for all other math courses that you will take in high school. Doing well in this course is vital for your success during your next three years in high school math. Graduation from Ponderosa High School requires 3 credits (3 years) of math, but most Colorado institutions of higher education require 4 credits for acceptance. This will be your first of those credits. In this class, we will study algebra and many geometry concepts. This course counts towards CCHE and NCAA requirements.

## 2] Grading

### Grade Scale

90.00% - 100% = A  
80.00% - 89.99% = B  
70.00% - 79.99% = C  
60.00% - 69.99% = D  
0% - 59.99% = F

### Quarter Grades

60% Tests  
20% Assignments  
20% Mastery Quizzes

### 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Grade

85% Quarter Grade  
15 % Exam

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Grade

80% Quarter Grade  
20% Exam

## 3] Assignments

It is very important that you practice math skills daily. You must take full responsibility for your own learning. The Problem Sets we provide for you are designed so that you will continually practice material from throughout the year. Students who work all the problems will enjoy more success on tests and in future classes. So that you will become a better problem solver we will be emphasizing the process, as much, or possibly even more than, the final answer. Therefore, showing the appropriate steps that will be emphasized in class is imperative. Assignments will usually be due the next class day after they are assigned. On an assignment you will receive 1

point for each complete solution. A paper simply having answers, but no work, will most likely not receive any credit. All the answers to all the Problem Sets are available on the website. You are responsible for checking your own work. You should know when you are done with an assignment whether or not you understand the material. If there is something you are not sure about you should be prepared to ask questions in class the next day. The format for your assignments will be discussed in class. Late work will NOT be accepted.

#### 4] Tests

Tests will usually be given after every four lessons. Tests will usually consist of 20 questions. The types of questions could be multiple choice, free response, calculator, or non-calculator problems. Showing work will be required on every type of problem. Problems will be given partial credit when graded if work is shown. Questions are usually graded out of five points. A correct answer earns one point. The appropriate work that is shown earns the other four points.

#### 5] Mastery Quizzes

Each lesson will have a corresponding Mastery Quiz. This is simply a quiz out of ten points. There are usually three questions or parts to the Mastery Quiz. All parts are graded as right or wrong. All appropriate work must be shown to get credit. **You can take the Mastery Quizzes as many times as needed until you get the score you want, as long as the quiz has been retaken before the test that includes that lesson.** You are rewarded for doing well on the Mastery Quiz on the first attempt. The scores, out of ten, are as follows:

<u><b>First attempt</b></u>	<u><b>Retake</b></u>
<i>None right = 0 pts</i>	<i>None right = 0 pts</i>
<i>One right out of three = 6 pts</i>	<i>One right out of three = 0 pts</i>
<i>Two right out of three = 8 pts</i>	<i>Two right out of three = 6 pts</i>
<i>All three right = 11 pts</i>	<i>All three right = 8 pts</i>

#### 6] Attendance

You are expected to bring your notebook of problem sets, paper, pencil, and a calculator (second semester) to class everyday. Attendance each day is very important. We will be doing something productive everyday in class. It is your responsibility to do make up work if you are absent. Materials, assignments, and PowerPoint lessons are available on the web. Excused absences will be allowed a day to do make up work. Unexcused absences will receive no credit for the work done that day, although you are still responsible for the material that was covered. You must make arrangements with your teacher to make up a test. It is expected that assignments during a prearranged absence are turned in on time. If an assignment is due the day you are gone it should be turned in ahead of time. If an assignment is given the day you are gone, it is expected that the assignment is turned in on time. School field trips and sports related early dismisses are prearranged absences.

## 7] Extra Help

If you find yourself in the position of needing extra help, make this known to your teacher. Help is always available, and encouraged. Your first resource should be your teacher, not a tutor. Mustang 55 on Wednesday morning is an excellent time to get additional help. Talk to your teacher to make arrangements for additional help before or after school.

## 8] Behavior

It is expected that you act like young adults and treat each other with respect and dignity. Every student has a right to be in the classroom and to learn. Do not violate the rights of other students. Be on time to class: tardiness will not be tolerated. Tardiness is a rude behavior and a sign of disrespect. **Cell phones, MP3 players, or other electronic gadgets will not be tolerated in the classroom.** Any problems with behavior will be dealt with by referrals to the office and/or parent communication.

### PHS Behavioral Expectations:

- 1] Students are expected to remain at their seat until the end of the period. The teacher dismisses class, not the bell.
- 2] Passes to leave the classroom will not be issued during the first or last 10 minutes of class.
- 3] The PHS tardy and dress code policy will be enforced.
- 4] Students are expected to use the sign in/sign-out sheet to use the classroom pass.
- 5] Food and drink (except water) are not allowed in the classroom.

## 9] Cheating

Cheating in any form will not be tolerated. Any copying of tests, quizzes, or assignments will result in zero credit for all parties involved. Referrals and/or parent contact will be made. It is expected that students at Ponderosa High School have high moral standards and demonstrate this in all they do.

## 10] Calculators/Supplies

Calculator use will not be allowed during first semester. Calculator use will be required beginning sometime during the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. We will by no means make use of its full capability this year in Algebra I, but we do recommend that you invest now in a TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator. This calculator will serve a student well through their 4 years in high school, and in many cases this same calculator will also be sufficient to get a student through college. A TI graphing calculator will be used by the teacher to demonstrate appropriate calculator use. Do not expect the teacher to be able to assist you in the use of other brands and models of calculators. You will need pens, pencils, notebook paper, and 3-ring binder on a daily basis all year.

## 11] Success is Yours

- Use your planner on a daily basis and be organized.
- Be polite and courteous at all times.
- Be attentive when someone else is speaking.
- Dress and act appropriately at all times.
- Be prompt and prepared at all times.
- Attendance is critical. If you are absent, you will miss something.
- Expect to be busy the entire class period.
- Grades are important, but nothing surpasses understanding and true knowledge.
- Success comes with hard work.
- Mathematics is the key to your future in more ways than you will know at this time.
- The ability to critically think is the most important thing you will learn this year.
- Thinking skills transcend all of algebra and mathematics.
- Ask for help! Get the most out of your education.



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I have read and I understand these class policies. I am aware of the Parent Portal for acquiring information about attendance and academic progress in this course. I have visited the Algebra I section of the Ponderosa High School Math Department website ([www.phsmath.org](http://www.phsmath.org)) and am aware of the resources that are available to both me and my student on this website.

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Contact number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent email: \_\_\_\_\_

