

Honors Algebra 2

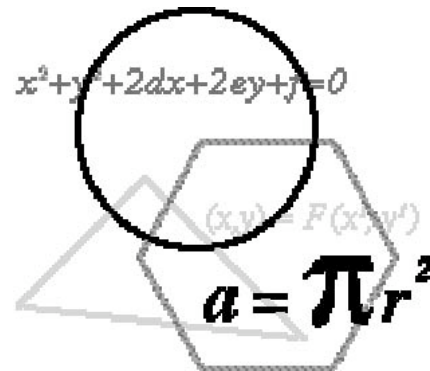
Course Policies

2011-2012

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Philosophy

Algebra 2 is the continuation of a world of mathematics that will open many doors for you in your future. My goal for you, and hopefully your mathematical goal, is the successful completion of a calculus course [either here at PHS (hopefully) or in a post high school setting]. Few people realize that a calculus background is required for approximately fifty percent of all programs you can major in at the college level. This course will teach you many of the concepts needed for mastering the standards for graduation from Douglas County Schools and meets CCHE and NCAA requirements. Keep in mind that 3 math credits are required for graduation from Ponderosa High School, but that 4 math credits are required for entrance into most Colorado institutions of higher education.

At this level of math (and your education in general) you must take responsibility for your own learning. Not only must you **do** your assignment each day, but also you must do your assignment **correctly** each day. You should always **show your work**. I am fully aware that in many situations some of you will argue (accurately so) that you can get the answer without showing any work. That is not the point. This is not a “get the answer” class; it is an advanced math class. It is **critical** that you learn to put work on paper when this is easy to do. When the math becomes more complicated (and that may not be until a future course), if you do not have the necessary pencil-paper skills the solution becomes virtually impossible. Please work to build a broad foundation now so that your future achievement can be at a much higher level.

Grading Scale

First Semester

100% – 87.00%	A
86.99% – 78.00%	B
77.99% – 69.00%	C
68.99% – 60.00%	D
59.99% – 0.00%	F

Second Semester

100% – 86.00%
85.99% – 77.00%
76.99% – 67.00%
66.99% – 58.00%
57.99% – 0.00%

Quarter Grade

Assessments	65%
Assignments	25%
Fact tests	10%

Semester Grade

Quarter averages	80%
Semester exam	20%

Tests

A test will generally be given two out of three weeks. Tests could be calculator active or non-calculator in nature. Most tests are, in fact, partially calculator active and partially non-calculator. To receive credit on a test **you must demonstrate your algebra skills**. Guess and check answers are not suitable in this course. This course is about algebra, not just getting answers. 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. During a test your desk must be completely clear of any non-test related material (no notebooks, folders, calculator covers, etc. may be on your desk). Your backpack/book bag will be left in a central location in the room. This will help to eliminate distractions to other students when you are done with your test. Since all standardized math tests require the use of a pencil, that will be the requirement in this class.

Fact Tests

The simple facts that you must know to be successful in this course will be tested throughout the school year. You will be given 2 fact tests each quarter. Each Fact Test must meet the minimum standard (see below). If a Fact Test does not meet the minimum standard, then the test must be retaken until the minimum is met. If the minimum is not met by the announced cut off date, then the score for that Fact Test will be recorded as a zero. If both fact Tests of a quarter are perfect (the first time), then a score of 110% will be recorded for both.

Minimum Requirements for Fact Tests:

- 87% First Quarter
- 90% Second Quarter
- 93% Third Quarter
- 96% Fourth Quarter

Regular assignments

Expect four assignments per week. The Problem Sets you will work on 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 non-test class day after they are assigned. On assignments you will receive credit for complete solutions. A paper simply having answers, but no work, will most likely not receive any credit. Answers to 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. Most regular assignments will be worth thirty points. Each assignment should be worked in pencil, blue or black ink. Late work will NOT be accepted. At the end of each quarter you will be awarded 60 Oops points. This eliminates the need for excuses. Oops points that are not "used" become extra credit.

Attendance

Regular attendance is **very** important for your success in this course. After an absence it will be **your** responsibility to find out what may have been missed. If your first day of absence is a "test day," then plan on taking the test your first day back. Since most tests

are given five to eight lessons after the lesson they cover this should not be a hardship.

Pre-arranged absence

Anytime an absence can be anticipated it should be pre-arranged through the office. Failure to do so may result in that absence being unexcused. In pre-arranging you will receive your assignments before leaving. This work should be completed and ready to turn in the day you return or it may be considered late. **School field trips (athletics included) are pre-arranged.** This means that school field trips are not an excuse to turn in late assignments.

Tardies

You should be in the room and headed to your proper seat when the bell rings. (This includes pencil sharpening, etc.) Tardiness will not be tolerated. Tardiness is a rude behavior and a sign of disrespect. The school wide tardy policy will be followed. (I hope to never to have to use it.) At the end of the period the bell is a reminder to the teacher to wrap things up; the teacher dismisses class, not the bell.

Passes

Passes are always required to leave the classroom. You must sign in and out. A hall pass will never be issued to go to your locker. **COME TO CLASS PREPARED.** No passes will be used to leave class during the first and last 10 minutes of class. When you are granted permission to leave the classroom, you will leave your cell phone in the room.

Calculators

Calculators will be used regularly on both assignments and tests in this course. Significant class time will be spent in becoming a proficient and a discerning graphing calculator user. Because classroom instruction and demonstrations will be done using a TI-83/84 graphing calculator I strongly encourage you to acquire this brand and model. This calculator is the only calculator that any student will ever need at PHS (and probably even at a collegiate level). Graphing calculators are available on a daily basis for classroom use. **Your student ID is required to check one out.**

CALCULATORS MAY NOT BE SHARED DURING A TEST!

During a test the cover of your calculator must be removed from your calculator and put away. Calculators are the only electronic devices that are acceptable in the classroom. If a cell phone or personal music device is used during class you can expect that it will be turned into the office. Cell phone (or other PDA) calculators may not be used in class, and especially not during tests.

Honor and Ethics

Honesty and integrity are expected at all times. Collaboration is encouraged. However, make sure the work on your paper is always your own. A peer can talk you through a problem, but you should never copy someone else's work. Your paper should not be on another student's desk unless it is being passed in. Any work (assignments or assessments) that is plagiarized from another source will receive no credit.

Supply list

3-ring binder with dividers
pencil with good eraser
protractor
an inquiring and inquisitive mind

loose-leaf notebook paper
ruler—English and metric scale
(graphing calculator)

Axioms for success at Ponderosa High School

1. Be polite and courteous at **all** times.
2. Practice "put-ups" not put-downs.
3. Dress and act appropriately at **all** times.
4. When you make a mess, clean it up (paper and/or other trash does not belong on the floor).
5. Gum must be used in an appropriate manner (smackers and poppers will lose their privilege).
6. Food and drink (except water) are appropriate only before and after school and during lunchtime. Water is good for you—your brain is over 80% water.
7. Graphing calculators are the only acceptable electronics in the classroom. Calculators are to be used for mathematical purposes **only**. All other electronics should be turned off, should be completely out of reach, and out of mind.
8. Be prompt and prepared at **all** times.
9. Be attentive when someone else is speaking.
10. Attendance is critical for your success. There are **no** free days in this course. If you are absent you **will** miss something.
11. Once you are in the classroom expect to stay for the entire period.
12. Expect to be busy for the entire period—everyday.
13. Grades are important, but nothing surpasses understanding and true knowledge. Success comes with hard work.
14. Mathematics is the key to your future in more ways than you will comprehend at this point in time.
15. The ability to critically think is the most important thing you will learn this year. Thinking skills transcend all of algebra and mathematics.
16. Never underestimate yourself. You are better than you think you are; you can do more than you think you can.
17. Ask them **when** you have questions. Seek help **when** you need it.
18. Extra help is available most mornings before first period, and during Mustang 55 right here in this room. Since I coach, I am unavailable after school during August, September, and October. After that I am typically available Monday and Wednesday after school. Check to make sure I am available if you desire to come for extra help. Your teacher should be your first resource, not a tutor.
19. www.phsmath.org
20. bret.crock@dcsdk12.org
21. EXCELLENCE IS FOR EVERYONE!
22. Smart is NOT something you are: smart is something you achieve.

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 Honors Algebra 2 section of the Ponderosa High School Math Department website (www.phsmath.org) and am aware of the resources that are available to both me and my student on this website.

Student name: _____

Student signature: _____

Parent name: _____

Parent signature: _____

Parent Contact number: _____

Parent email: _____