

# Honors Algebra 2 – Class Policies

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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.

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 work in pencil and 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  |   | Second Semester |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| 100% – 87.00%   | A | 100% – 86.00%   |
| 86.99% – 78.00% | B | 85.99% – 77.00% |
| 77.99% – 69.00% | C | 76.99% – 67.00% |
| 68.99% – 60.00% | D | 66.99% – 58.00% |
| 59.99% – 0.00%  | F | 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. Individual tests are the norm, but partner tests will be given occasionally. Either type could be calculator active or non-calculator in nature. Most tests are, in fact, partially calculator active and partially non-calculator. When a partner test is given, the teacher will homogeneously group partners. 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. 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.

## Regular assignments

Expect four assignments per week. Most regular assignments will be worth thirty points. Each assignment should be worked in pencil. You must show your work on a regular basis. Although there are exceptions, regular assignments will be due the next non-test class day after it is assigned. Late work is not accepted (except when an excused absence is involved).

## 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.) The school wide tardy policy will be followed. (I hope to never have to use it.) At the end of the period the bell is only a reminder; the teacher dismisses class.

## 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 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 will be assigned detention for classroom disruption. 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.
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 and halls at PHS. Calculators are to be used for mathematical purposes **only**.
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 Advisement 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.
19. [www.phsmath.org](http://www.phsmath.org)
20. [bret.crock@dcsdk12.org](mailto:bret.crock@dcsdk12.org)
21. EXCELLENCE IS FOR EVERYONE!