

College Algebra Classroom Policies

Ms. Lethbridge (soon to be Mrs. Yarnell) and Mrs. Johnson

www.phsmath.org

1. College Algebra – The Course

Congratulations on selecting a course that will further your knowledge in mathematics, and enable you to better prepare for college and the future. In this class, we will continue studying algebra, geometry and trig concepts. The textbook is Saxon, and follows directly from your Geometry class last year. If you did not take the Geometry class at PHS last year, you need to see your teacher about appropriate placements immediately!

2. Assignments

It is very important that you practice math skills daily. You must take full responsibility for your own learning. Not only must you do your assignment each day, but also you must do each assignment correctly. The problem sets in the Saxon textbook are designed for you to continually practice problems from the beginning to the end. People who work each and every problem will have more success on tests and future classes. To become better problem solvers, we will be looking at the process as well as the final answer. Therefore, showing your steps is imperative. You can expect 2-3 assignments per week. Each assignment will be due two classes later. **LATE HOMEWORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!** You will earn 30 points on the assignment that has all problems completed and demonstrates the following criteria;

- Assignment is labeled with name, problem set, numbers, and the date.
- Copy original problem and show all work. Your work must support your answer. Answers only will not be acceptable.
- All graphs shall be done on graph paper and attached to the homework page.
- Each problem must have at least one blank line underneath and beside before beginning the next problem.
- Sketch pictures that are drawn or described.
- If the problem requires a formula – write it down.
- Solve the problem vertically – not sideways.
- Indicate your answer by putting a box around your answer.
- Use a pencil, blue or black ink. No pink, red or purple.
- Odd answers are available in the back of the book. Even answers are available on the web. You are responsible to check your answers each night in order to ask questions in class the next day.

NOTE: Not all assignments will be collected; however, you are expected to do all that is assigned. Remember, you are doing the assignments to learn the material, not for the points! There will also be homework quizzes given periodically; another great reason to make sure you are doing the assignments AND checking them. IT DOES NOT HELP YOU IN THE SLIGHTEST TO JUST COPY THE SOLUTIONS MANUAL! DON'T DO IT!

3. Weighted Grades

Quarter: 80% Tests and Quizzes
20% Assignments

Semester: 20% Semester Final
80% Semester Average

Semester Grading Scale:

A = 90.00% - 100%

B = 80.00% - 89.99%

C = 70.00% - 79.99%

D = 60.00% - 69.99%

F = 0.00% - 59.99%

4. Supplies, Preparation and Attendance:

You are required to bring your covered textbook, paper, pencil, and calculator (TI 83 or 84 recommended) to class everyday. Your attendance each day is also important. We will be covering a new lesson every other class day, with a test every 2 lessons (normally on the block day). It is your responsibility to do the make up work if you are absent. The daily assignments are on the web. Excused absences will be allowed a day to do make up work. Unexcused absences will receive no credit for all work done that day, although you are still responsible for the material that was covered. You must make arrangements to make up a test.

5. Extra Help

Help is available and strongly encouraged. The best way to receive help is to ask and arrange a time to meet. Ask questions whenever necessary!! If you have a question, chances are someone else has the same question. Come in during advisement, before school or after school for help.

6. Textbooks

Your textbook is the property of Ponderosa High School. You will be charged for any damages and loss during the time it is assigned to you. The replacement cost for these books is now at \$70. **YOU NEED TO BRING YOUR BOOKS TO CLASS EVERY DAY!!**

7. Behavior

We expect that you act like young adults and treat each other with respect and dignity. Each student has a right to be in the classroom and to learn. Do not violate that right. Be on time to class, tardiness will not be tolerated. Cell phones are not allowed in the classroom, nor are games on your calculators. Any problems with behavior will be dealt with by referrals to the office and parent communication.

PHS School Expectations:

- Students are expected to remain in their seats until the teacher dismisses the class.
- No passes will be used to leave class during the first and last 10 minutes of class.
- Students are expected to present an admit form for an unverified absence upon their return.
- The PHS tardy and dress code policy will be enforced.
- Students are expected to use the hall pass to leave the classroom. Ask permission before you use the pass.
- Food and drink (except water) will not be allowed in the classroom.

8. Cheating

It saddens us to have to address this issue, but it seems to be becoming more of a problem each year. Cheating will absolutely not be tolerated. Any copying of tests, quizzes, or homework will result in zero credit for **all** parties involved. If a cell phone is being used at all during a test, it is considered cheating and you will take a zero. Also, as per your student handbook, there will be a referral and a parent contact. I would expect students such as yourself to have high moral standards and goals, and that your honor and integrity is very important!

9. Calculators

Calculators will be used regularly on both assignments and tests in this course. Because classroom instruction and demonstrations will be done using a TI-83 (or TI-83 Plus, or TI-83 silver edition) or TI-84 graphing calculator, we strongly encourage you to acquire this brand and model. We will be able to instruct you in the use of the TI-83 and TI-84. If you have a different brand calculator, or even a different model TI calculator, you will need to consult your owner's manual often because there is a very good chance we will not be able to instruct you in its use. This calculator is the only calculator that any student will ever need at PHS (and most likely though college)

10. College Credit and FAQ regarding earning college credit.

Completion of this course allows you the **opportunity to register** for and receive three hours of college credit through the CU gold succeed program. You will receive this credit without any additional tests or requirements if you register at the appropriate time. All of the information regarding this program will be available as we near the fall registration period. "If I do not go to CU, will my college accept the credit?" The answer to this question is probably. There is no guarantee that any credits will transfer when you move from one college to another, however, we have never heard of a college not accept this credit. "What does it cost?" The three credits cost \$225. This is significantly less than what one would normally pay for three hours of credit. It will be very important that you follow the instructions to the letter when registering for credit. Again, we will have the information available as we near the registration period.

11. How to Contact us

Email: firstname.lastname@dcsdk12.org

Our web site: www.phsmath.org

This web site provides you with a lot of valuable course information. Make it a habit to use it regularly!

Please print, sign and return the form below.

We acknowledge that we have read, discussed and understand the College Algebra course policies for the school year 2011-2012.

Student _____
Print

Parent _____
Print

Signature Date

Signature Date

Email: _____
