

Algebra I

Mr. Ken Kain

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Best way to reach me is by email

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Let's Grow

2020 – 2021 Course Description

This course is designed to challenge all students, regardless of their previous accomplishments. It is critical to me that all students are given the opportunity and challenge to **GROW**, as much as possible. Our discussions will center on growth and the learning process and rarely on the grading outcomes.

Essential Learnings

- Students will learn to demonstrate proficiency in the four basic math operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) with rational numbers and algebraic expressions.
- Students will manipulate, solve, and evaluate linear and quadratic equations with one variable.
- They will also learn to correctly graph ordered pairs on a coordinate system, interpret graphs of linear functions, write and manipulate linear, quadratic and exponential functions, and manipulate linear equations in two variables.
- The course will culminate with quadratic equation factoring.

This is an advanced math class. Students are placed in this class based on a number of criteria: performance in the subject area of 85% or above, performance on standardized tests, work ethic, motivation, writing ability, the student's high level of interest and strong desire to be challenged in the subject area. Students that are in this class are not guaranteed an Honors class the following semester and/or year. Final decisions are based on multiple criteria.

Supplies

It is my expectation that you bring the following supplies to class each day.

Calculator -TI-84 or better is required beginning with Algebra 1

Pen(s) and Pencil(s)

Graph or engineering paper should be used for class/homework – especially for all graphs

Dry Erase Markers – students will likely need 6 or more per quarter for their own use. This is a very important part of the instruction in this class! Many students will use even more.

Grading Policies

All assignments will be graded on a weighted system. Your grade will be based on chapter tests, quizzes, mastery assignments, and class and homework. In addition to chapter tests, a comprehensive final exam will be given at the end of the semester. Grades are a reflection of the currently demonstrated understanding of the course content.

Your overall grade will be based on the following:

1. Practice/Work 20%
2. Skills Quizzes 15%
3. Tests/Assessments 55%
4. Semester/Final 10%

Grading Scale:

90 – 100 % A

80 - 89 % B

70 - 79 % C

60 - 69 % D

0 - 59 % F

A grade of 85% or better is required to be considered for Honors Geometry.

All students will have the opportunity to improve any skills quiz score. Other opportunities to improve scores may exist at teacher discretion. Students will be asked to demonstrate new understanding prior to being allowed to retake an assessment in addition to having completed all practice assignments.

Assessments (55% of your grade)- Chapter Mastery Tests

There will be a mastery test at the middle and end of each topic section. Tests may include material from earlier chapters, as well. There will be a total of 20 mastery tests given at the middle and end of each learning unit during the school year. These units vary in length, but students can plan on a mastery test every 1 to 2 weeks.

Practice/Class Work (20% of your grade)

-Class Work - There may be some assignments and projects that will be completed in class. Those will be graded based on participation, completeness and correctness. This will include individual exploration projects and similar works. When appropriate a rubric will be provided.

The practice category will include all of the work designed to build learning and understanding for the course standards. Lesson quizzes will be given after each practice set to determine the students grade toward mastery on each topic. These scores, along with MathXL scores, will be listed in Infinite Campus so that the student can track their progress toward mastering the content. Most videos will be accompanied by a short quiz that will also be graded and entered in IC. This category must be kept at 100% complete to allow students to have an opportunity to redo graded assessments.

Skills quizzes (15%)

-Quizzes - There will be multiple mastery quizzes given to check progress toward mastery learning for essential topics. These quizzes will be a key learning opportunity for a student to check their understanding of skills that are critical for success in this course and beyond. These quizzes will focus on a specific topic and will be given as soon as the course practice and assessment have been completed.

Semester/Final Exam (10% of your grade)

The final will be comprehensive and an important assessment for determining your final grade, Homework/Classwork – the score in Infinite Campus for each assignment will be the total of points earned from the assigned problems/activities.

Math XL Progress will be included in the Practice

Each week students will be assigned various skill building activities. The students will work online and be responsible for a progress goal – working outside of class on the assignments if necessary.

Classroom Expectations and Policies

Classroom Conduct:

We will be building our unique set of classroom expectations during our first days together; when those norms have been completed students will be held accountable for those behaviors.

In Class work

It is my belief that students will generally be given enough time in class to complete all assigned work. If they do not use their time wisely, they will end up working outside of class to finish. It is my preference that all work is done in class so the students can access their learning support system of teacher and peers. Students will be expected to respect the learning environment of their classmates at all times.

Make-up Work

• Home/Class Work

- Excused absences: You are responsible for obtaining the material covered. Upon returning to school, you have two days to complete missing assignments unless different arrangements are made with the teacher.

- Late work/Redo: Students may turn in any assignments until the specified date for full credit. If a student would like to redo an assignment they should check in with the teacher for guidance on determining new understanding before the redo is completed.

• Test Make-Up

- A testing environment is required for all tests or quizzes.
- If you are absent for a test or quiz, it is your responsibility to schedule a makeup session with the teacher.

Cheating

Cheating includes, but is not limited to, copying work, sharing or receiving test or quiz answers, talking during a test or quiz, and turning in another student's work as your own. The consequences include a zero for that assignment and possible disciplinary action.

Because of the daily use of chromebooks, **no food or drinks** will be allowed in the room except for capped water bottles. The water bottles should be kept away from all technology.

Extra Help

For this school year the best option for help will be during face to face class times for those attending in person. For students working remotely - as well as the in person students - I am available during posted help times. I will post the current available times and dates each week.

Canvas Website

The class Canvas site is a valuable tool with numerous resources to assist you with the content in this class. The site has the Home/Class work assignment & due dates on the calendar. In addition it lists the same contact information contained in this syllabus.

Pearson Online Resources

Each student will have access to online resources at <https://www.pearsonrealize.com/> using your school Google account login as follows:

Username: first.last@jajags.com password: Last Student ID no spaces last name capitalized

For example: jane.smith@jajags.com Smith213245

Students will have access to the online version of the text in addition to a number of different types of tutorials and assignments.

Grade Reports

Grades may be accessed 24/7 on Infinite Campus through the Parent Portal. If you have difficulty logging in, please contact me as soon as possible. Parents may email or call me if they have a concern or question about their child's progress in this class.

Our focus will be on learning and not just earning a grade. However, each grade earned should be an indication of how a student is progressing in relation to the learning goals. If a student is not earning the grade that they had hoped for it is an indicator that more work will need to be done to demonstrate mastery of the learning standards. My focus will be on providing students feedback on how they are progressing toward these goals. Communication is the key.

I am looking forward to working with your student this year. If you or your student has any questions you would like to ask or concerns to share with me, please feel free to call or email me at any time. I check my voicemail after school every day. I check email constantly throughout the day.

Please acknowledge that you have read this syllabus but do not sign and return this page to Mr. Kain. You can email me with any questions, concerns, or best methods for contacting you.

I have read and understand the above course policies.

Student name _____ *date* _____

Parent/Guardian signature _____ *date* _____

Best way to contact you: _____

Any other concerns or items that you may want me to know about your student:
