Algebra I
Mr. Ken Kain
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Let’s Grow

2019 – 2020 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 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 and assessment score 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. These scores will be listed in Infinite Campus so that the student can track their progress toward mastering the content. 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 they will be added to this document and posted on the class website.

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**

I am available to help students during the following times (in addition to class time):

- Before school times will be determined as the year progresses. I am teaching a zero hour class that begins at 7:30am. Students may be able to stop in during that class depending on class activities for that day. I am not available on Friday mornings from 7:50am-8:10am
- Lunch - every day except Tuesdays (please make prior arrangements)
- After school, I am usually available from 3:20 pm to 4:00 pm. For after-school help, students should set up an appointment to ensure I am available on a given day. Occasionally I will have meetings to attend after school and will let students know when they are scheduled.

I will post the current available times and dates each week.

**Class Website**

The class website is a valuable tool with numerous resources to assist you with the content in this class. You can access the website at jajags.com - Secondary - Staff - Teachers - Mr. Kain

The website has the Home/Class work assignment & due date on the Google 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/](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.

In addition to posting grades constantly on Infinite Campus, I will be using an electronic portfolio website to share learning progress with each student and their family. You will be asked to approve the use of this site to communicate with your student on the next page, but I would encourage you to get much more involved by using the available app and following up on the learning process as often as possible. This information will be far more valuable than just a letter grade.
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 sign and return this page to Mr. Kain within 5 days of the beginning of the semester.

I have read and understand the above course policies. In addition, I give permission to Mr. Kain to post feedback and track student progress on the Fresh Grade website (see freshgrade.com for questions). All information will be password protected and only visible to each individual student.

__________________________________________________________________________
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:
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
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