

Algebra I, Classroom Policy and Syllabus

Mrs. Osterloh

Expectations:

I have high expectations for each and every one of you. In order to help you have a successful year, I have listed those expectations from your point of view followed by an explanation of those statements, when necessary.

“I will be respectful of myself and others in voice and action.”

Part of respecting others includes doing without food, candy, noticeable gum, and drinks in the classroom. But, more importantly, don't waste time or energy degrading yourself or others. We have much to learn and a limited time to learn it in. As you have probably discovered already, a positive attitude will enhance your learning greatly.

“I will come prepared to class with all my necessary materials, including a sharpened pencil, paper, blue pen, highlighter, textbook, binder or folder, calculator, and completed assignment(s).”

Employers expect their employees to come prepared to work. If you like, you may think of yourself as an employee, working to earn an education that the taxpayers have generously provided for you. You may choose to be a worker who will work poorly, jeopardizing your future, or you may choose to be a worker who will work hard to ensure a promising future with many opportunities. It's your choice. No one can make it for you. Thus, YOU have to choose to be responsible and come prepared for class.

We have lots to learn this year, thus I expect you to be in your seat and ready to start class before the bell rings, or you will be counted **tardy**. If you are organized, you will find it easier to avoid being tardy for class and to come prepared for class. By requiring assignments to be labeled correctly, deducting points for late work, and administering Organization Tests, I strive to encourage you to be organized. Assignments must be labeled correctly (as shown at right) and legibly or 10% will be deducted from that assignment's grade.

Label Assignments as shown:
(Place in upper right hand corner)

First and Last Name
Date (optional)
Period
Page No./Problem Numbers

If this is not legibly written on a collected assignment, 10% will be taken off.

Note: At times, you may need to leave our classroom during class time. You must secure permission to leave, sign-out before leaving, carry a pass with you to your designation, and sign back in upon return.

Late Assignments:

Late assignments will be accepted under the following policy:

- 50% off if turned in late. (Assignments turned in the day due, but AFTER the rest of the class grades the assignment together in class will be considered late and 50% will be deducted. Organization is important! Cramming papers haphazardly in your book or locker is not an acceptable method of organization.)

- 10% off if late BUT written permission was requested and granted to turn in the assignment late. (For example, if you truly did not understand how to do an assignment and let me know that you will be seeking my help during lunch or after school, then I would grant permission for you to turn in the assignment late.) My signature granting permission to turn the paper in late is required.
- No credit if too late. (“Too late” will vary depending on the type of assignment and parameters set in class. Typically, assignments will not be accepted once a test has been taken assessing the content contained in the assignments.)

Following school rules, if a student has an **unexcused absence**, he/she will receive no credit for any assignments (including tests & quizzes!) due the day of the unexcused absence. Also following school rules, if a student has an **excused absence**, he/she has the number of days absent to make up work upon return.

Organization Test:

An Organization Test will be given each 9 weeks to promote good organization skills and success in Algebra. You may use binders or folders to organize your material throughout the 9 weeks, but you may not simply shove papers in your textbooks or throw them away. Approximately one week before the end of each of the 9 weeks, an Organization Test will be given. A list of 10 various items will be given for you to locate within 20 minutes. For each completed item located, 3 points will be awarded for a total of 30 points.

- Suggested divisors for a binder/folder:
1. Reference Sheets
(such as formulas, etc.)
 2. Notes
 3. Book Lessons
 4. Worksheets

“I will attempt each and every assignment to the best of my ability.”

I expect you to put forth your best effort, as I will. YOU must go through the process of tackling new material on your own in order to be successful! Together, we can make exploring algebra an exciting adventure!

Grading Components:

- Tests..... 100 points each
- Organization Tests..... 30 points each 9 weeks
- Assignments..... checked for completion OR approximately 10 points each
- Quizzes..... 5-10 points each

“I will participate meaningfully in math discussions and activities.”

Research states that we remember 70% of what we discuss with others while we only remember 20% of what we hear. Thus, participating meaningfully will benefit you greatly!

Syllabus:

We will be using the book *Algebra 1, A Common Core Curriculum* by Ron Larson and Laurie Boswell, Big Ideas Math, 2015. We will be studying the material in the chapters listed below, although not necessarily in the order presented in the book. The Common Core State Standards in Mathematics may be accessed via the Ohio Department of Education's website by clicking the link <http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Ohio-s-New-Learning-Standards/Mathematics/Math-Standards.pdf.aspx>.

- Chapter 1. Solving Linear Equations**
- Chapter 2. Solving Linear Inequalities**
- Chapter 3. Graphing Linear Functions**
- Chapter 4. Writing Linear Functions**
- Chapter 5. Solving Systems of Linear Equations**
- Chapter 6: Exponential Functions and Sequences**
- Chapter 7: Polynomial Equations and Factoring**
- Chapter 8: Graphing Quadratic Functions**
- Chapter 9: Solving Quadratic Equations**
- Chapter 10: Radical Functions and Equations**
- Chapter 11: Data Analysis and Displays**

“I will seek help to improve my understanding of the content, asking questions during or beyond normal class time.”

Note that this expectation strives to encourage communication between you, the student, and me, the teacher. If you are struggling, I need to know right away so I can help you BEFORE you feel overwhelmed! And YOU must take on the responsibility to seek help by ASKING QUESTIONS in class or before/after class or at lunch or before/after school. It is easy to fall behind in mathematics if understanding does not take place on a DAILY basis. You can be a successful Algebra student, but it will require willingness to work and learn and communicate with me.

Progress Book:

Parents are STRONGLY encouraged to access Progress Book often – at least once each week. I expect each student to take responsibility for completing his or her assignments and studying for his or her tests, but informed parents can help encourage good study habits. 😊

Printed Progress Reports:

Occasionally, I will be sending home printed progress reports. I do not plan on sending these home often, so please take advantage of Progress Book on-line to stay well informed. When I do send them home, I will expect the students to show them to their parents, ask a parent to sign the progress report, and then bring the progress reports back to me. I strongly believe in keeping open the line of communication between parents and myself. To ensure students share their progress reports with their parents, a detention will be given to any student who does not return the progress report signed within two days. If you do NOT want to receive printed progress reports, but would prefer to ONLY check grades using Progress Book, please indicate that on the portion below that you will be returning to me.

Contact Information: osterloh@fortrecoveryschools.org or 419-375-4111

Parents: Please, do contact me if you have any questions. I would much rather answer questions as they arise rather than wait months until Parent-Teacher Conferences☺. Note that it is much easier to stay in contact with me via e-mail rather than playing phone tag! If you do want to speak with me via the phone, it is much better to ask the school secretary to place a message in my school mailbox rather than leave a voice message on my phone. I very rarely have people leave phone messages, so I rarely check my phone for messages.

Parents: If your son/daughter is on an IEP or 504 plan, please feel free to communicate with his/her intervention specialist regarding Algebra. The specialists work hard to ensure that your son/daughter has the best support possible for success in Algebra.

*Parents and students, please read, sign, and return the printed portion that was handed out in class.

Thank you, Mrs. Osterloh

Algebra I Student

I have read the on-line “Algebra I, Classroom Policy and Syllabus”. I am aware of the class expectations.

Print Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____ Algebra period: _____

Parent

Please **checkmark** one of these two options.

- I do NOT want to receive printed progress reports on paper. I prefer to ONLY check grades using Progress Book via the internet. I will check grades on-line at least every two weeks. If my situation changes that I can no longer access my child’s grades on-line, then I will inform Mrs. Osterloh so that I can then begin to receive printed progress reports on paper.
 - o Note: If a student’s Algebra I grade is a D+ or below when printed progress reports are issued, then the student’s parent will be expected to sign and return a printed progress report. The student will be issued a detention if he/she does not return the printed progress report signed within two school days.

- I DO want to receive printed/paper progress reports that I must sign and return via my child. I realize that my child will receive a detention if he/she does not return the printed progress report sent home within two school days. (If neither option is checked, this option will be automatically selected.)

My son/daughter shared the on-line “Algebra I, Classroom Policy and Syllabus” with me. I am aware of the class expectations.

Parent, please write a few sentences below about your son/daughter to help me know him/her and his/her math needs better!

Parent Name (print legibly): _____

Parent Signature: _____

e-mail: _____

Phone: _____

*Parent, please provide the best phone number to contact you at, although e-mail is my preferred method for contacting parents.